THE

ADVENTURES

OF

John Ramsay

PEREGRINE PICKLE.

By the Author of RODERICK RANDOM.

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MDCCLXXXV.

THE ADVENTURES OF PEREGRINE PICKLE.

CHAP. I.

An account of Mr Gamaliel Pickle. The disposition of his sister described. He yields to her solicitations, and retires to the country.

IN a certain county of England, bounded on one side by the sea, and at the distance of one hundred miles from the metropolis, lived Gamaliel Pickle, Esq; the father of that hers whose adventures we propose to record. He was the son of a merchant in London, who (like Rome) from small beginings, had raised himself to the highest honours of the city, and acquired a plentiful fortune, though, to his infinite regret, he died before it amounted to a Plum, conjuring his son, as he respected the last injunction of a parent, to imitate his industry, and adhere to his maxims, until he should have made up the deficiency, which was a sum

a ſum conſiderably leſs than fifteen thouſand pounds.

This pathetic remonſtrance had the deſired effect upon his repreſentative who ſpared no pains to fulfil the requeſt of the deceaſed; but exerted all the capacity with which nature had endowed him, in a ſeries of efforts which, however, did not ſucceed: for by that time he had been fifteen years in trade, he found himſelf five thouſand pounds worſe than he was when he firſt took poſſeſſion of his father's effects: a circumſtance that affected him ſo nearly, as to detach his inclinations from buſineſs, and induce him to retire from the world, to ſome place where he might at leiſure deplore his misfortunes and, by frugality, ſecure himſelf from want, and the apprehenſions of a jail, with which his imagintion was inceſſantly haunted. He was often heard to expreſs his fears of coming upon the pariſh; and to bleſs God, that on account of his having been ſo long a houſekeeper, he was intitled to that proviſion. In ſhort, his talents were not naturally active, and there was a ſort of inconſiſtency in his character; for, with all the deſire of amaſſing which any citizen could poſſibly entertain, he was encumbered by a certain indolence and ſluggiſhneſs that prevailed over every intereſted conſideration, and even hindered him from profiting by that ſingleneſs of apprehenſion and moderation of appetites, which have ſo frequently conduced to the acquiſition of immenſe fortunes, qualities which he poſſeſſed in a very remarkable degree. Nature in all probability had mixed little or nothing inflammable in his compoſition; or, whatever ſeeds of exceſs ſhe might have ſown within him, were effectually ſtifled and deſtroyed by the auſterity of his education.

The ſallies of his youth, far from being inordi-

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nate or criminal, never exceeded the bounds of that decent jollity which an extraordinary pot, on extraordinary occasions, may be supposed to have produced in a club of sedate book-keepers, whose imaginations were neither very warm nor luxurian- Little subject to refined sensations, he was scarce ever disturbed with violent emotions of any kind. The passion of love never interrupted his tranquillity: and if, as Mr Creech says after Horace,

Not to admire is all the art, I know,
To make men happy, and to keep them so,

Mr Pickle was undoubtedly possessed of that invaluable secret; at least, he was never known to betray the faintest symptom of transport, except one evening at the club, where he observed, with some demonstrations of vivacity, that he had dined upon a delicate loin of veal.

Notwithstanding this appearance of phlegm, he could not help feeling his disappointments in trade and upon the failure of a certain under-writer, by which he lost five hundred pounds, declared his design of relinquishing business, and retiring to the country. In this resolution he was comforted and encouraged by his only sister Mrs Grizzle, who had managed his family since the death of his father, and was now in the thirtieth year of her maiden-hood, with a fortune of five thousand pounds, and a large stock of oeconomy and devotion.

These qualifications, one would think, might have been the means of abridging the term of her celibacy, as she never expressed any aversion to wedlock; but it seems she was too delicate in her choice, to find a mate to her inclination in the city: for I cannot suppose that she remained so long

unſolicited; though the charms of her perſon were not altogether enchanting, nor her manner over and above agreeable. Excluſive of a very wan (not to call it ſallow) complexion, which perhaps was the effect of her virginity and mortification, ſhe had a caſt in her eyes that was not at all engaging, and ſuch an extent of mouth, as no art or affection could contract into any proportionable dimenſion: then her piety was rather peeviſh than reſigned, and did not in the leaſt diminiſh a certain ſtatelineſs in her demeanour and converſation, that delighted in communicating the importance and honour of her family, which, by the bye, was not to be traced two generations back, by all the power of heraldry or tradition.

She ſeemed to have renounced all the ideas ſhe had acquired before her father ſerved the office of ſheriff; and that æra which regulated the dates of all her obſervations, was the mayoralty of her papa. Nay, ſo ſolicitous was this good lady for the ſupport and propogation of the family-name, that, ſuppreſſing every ſelfiſh motive, ſhe actually prevailed upon her brother to combat with his own diſpoſition, and even ſurmount it ſo far, as to declare a paſſion for the perſon whom he afterwards wedded, as we ſhall ſee in the ſequel. Indeed, ſhe was the ſpur that inſtigated him in all his extraordinary undertakings; and I queſtion whether or not he would have been able to diſengage himſelf from that courſe of life in which he had ſo long mechanically moved, unleſs he had been rouzed and actuated by her inceſſant exhortations. London, ſhe obſerved, was a receptacle of iniquity, where an honeſt unſuſpecting man was every day in danger of falling a ſacrifice to craft; where innocence was expoſed to continual temptations, and virtue eternally

nally perſecuted by malice and ſlander; where every thing was ruled by caprice and corruption and merit utterly diſcouraged and deſpiſed. This laſt imputation ſhe pronounced with ſuch emphaſis and chagrin, as plainly denoted how far ſhe conſidered herſelf as an example of what ſhe had advanced: and really the charge was juſtified by the conſtructions that were put upon her retreat by her female friends who, far from imputing it to the laudable motives that induced her, inſinuated,—in ſarcaſtic commendations, that ſhe had good reaſon to be diſſatisfied with a place where ſhe had been ſo long overlooked and that it was certainly her wiſeſt courſe to make her laſt effort in the country, where, in all probability, her talents would be leſs eclipſed, and her fortune more attractive.

Be this as it will, her admonitions, tho' they were powerful enough to convince, would have been inſufficient to overcome the languor and *vis inertiæ* of her brother, had ſhe not reinforced her arguments, by calling in queſtion the credit of two or three merchants, with whom he was embarked in trade.

Alarmed at theſe hints of intelligence, he exerted himſelf effectually, he withdrew his money from trade, and laying it out in Bank-ſtock and India-bonds, removed to a houſe in the country, which his father had built near the ſea-ſide, for the convenience of carrying on a certain branch of traffic in which he had been deeply concerned.

Here then Mr Pickle fixed his habitation for life in the ſix-and-thirtieth year of his age; and though the pangs he felt at parting with his intimate companions and quitting all his former connections, were not quite ſo keen as to produce any dangerous diſorder in his conſtitution, he did not fail to be extremely diſconcerted at his firſt entrance into a ſcene

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of life to which he was totally a ſtranger. Not but that he met with abundance of people in the country, who, in conſideration of his fortune, courted his acquaintance, and breathed nothing but friendſhip and hoſpitality; yet even the trouble of receiving and returning theſe civilities, was an intolerable fatigue to a man of his habits and diſpoſition. He therefore left the care of the ceremonial to his ſiſter who indulged herſelf in all the pride of formality, while he himſelf, having made a diſcovery of a public houſe in the neighbourhood, went thither every evening, and enjoyed his pipe and cann; being very well ſatisfied with the behaviour of the landlord, whoſe communicative temper was a great comfort to his own taciturnity; for he ſhunned all ſuperfluity of ſpeech, as much as he avoided any other unneceſſary expence.

CHAP. II.

He is made acquainted with the characters of Commodore Trunnion *and his adherents; meets with them by accident, and contracts an intimacy with that commander.*

THIS loquacious publican ſoon gave him ſketches of all the characters in the county; and, among others, deſcribed that of his next neighbour Commodore Trunnion, which was altogether ſingular and odd. "The Commodore and your worſhip (ſaid he) will in a ſhort time be hand and glove; he has a power of money; and ſpends like a prince —that is, in his own way—for to be ſure he is a little humourſome, as the ſaying is, and ſwears woundily;

woundily; though I'll be ſworn he means no more harm than a ſucking babe. Lord help us, it will do your honour's heart good to hear him tell a ſtory as how he lay alon-gſide of the French yard-arm and yard-armboard and board, and of heaving graplings and ſtink pots and grap'd and round and doublehead ed patridges, crows and carters,—Laud have mercy upon us! he has been a great warrior in his time, and loſt an eye and a heel in the ſervice—Then he does not live like any other chriſtian landman; but keeps garriſon in his houſe as if he were in the midſt of his enemies, and makes ſervants turn out in the night, watch and watch (as he calls it) all the year round. His habitation is defended by a ditch over which he has laid a draw-bridge, and planted his court-yard with patereroes continually loaded with ſhot, under the direction of one Mr Hatchway, who had one of his legs ſhot away, while he acted as lieutenant on board of the commodore's ſhip, and now being on half-pay, lives with him as his companion. The lieutenant is a very brave man, a great joker, and, as the ſaying is, hath got the length of his commander's foot.—Though he has another favourite in the houſe, called Tom Pipes, that was his boatſwain's mate, and now keeps the ſervants in order. Tom is a man of few words, but an excellent hand at a ſong, concerning the boatſwain's whiſtle, huſslecap, and chuck-farthing—there is not ſuch another pipe in the county—So that the commodore lives very happy in his own manner; tho' he be ſometimes thrown into perilous paſſions and quandaries, by the application of his poor kinſmen whom he can't abide, becauſe as how ſome of them were the firſt occaſion of his going to ſea. Then he ſweats with agony at the ſight of an attorney: juſt for all the world, as ſome people have an anti-

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pathy at a cat; for it ſeems he was once at law for ſtriking one of his officers, and caſt in a ſwinging ſum. He is, moreover exceedingly afflicted with goblins that diſturbed his reſt, and keep ſuch a racket in his houſe, that you would think (God bleſs us!) all the devils in hell had broke looſe upon him. It was no longer ago than laſt year, about this time, that he was tormented the live long night by two miſchievous ſpirits that got into his chamber, and played a thouſand pranks about his hammock, (for there is not one bed within his walls.) Well, Sir, he rung his bell, called up all his ſervants got lights, and made a thorough ſearch; but the devil a goblin was to be found. He had no ſooner turned in again, and the reſt of the family gone to ſleep, than the foul fiends began their game anew. The commodore got up in the dark, drew, his cutlaſs, and attacked them both ſo manfully, that, in five minutes, every thing in the apartment went to pieces. The lieutenant hearing the noiſe, came to his aſſiſtance; and Tom **Pipes** being told what was the matter, lighted his match, and going down to the yard, fired all the patereroes as ſignals of diſtreſs. Well, to be ſure, the whole pariſh was in a pucker: ſome thought the French had landed; others imagined the commodore's houſe was beſet by thieves: for my own part, I called up two dragoons that are quartered upon me; and they ſwore with deadly oaths, it was a gang of ſmugglers engaged with a party of their regiment that lies in the next village; and mounting their horſes like luſty fellows, rode up into the country as faſt as their beaſts could carry them. Ah, Maſter! theſe are hard times, when an induſtrious body cannot earn his bread without fear of the gallows. Your lordſhip's father (God reſt his ſoul!) was a good gentleman,

man, and as well respected in this parish as e'er a he that walks upon neat's leather. And if your honour should want a parcel of fine tea, or a few anchors of right Nantz, I'll be bound you shall be furnished to your hearts content. But, as I was saying, the hubbub continued until morning, when the parson being sent for, conjured the spirits into the Red Sea, and the house has been pretty quiet ever since. True it is, Mr Hatchway makes a mock of the whole affair; and told his commander, in this very blessed spot, that the two gobblins were no other than a couple of jack-daws which had fallen down the chimney, and made a flapping with their wings up aud down the apartment. But the commodore, who is very choleric, and does not like to be jeered, fell into a main high passion, and stormed like a perfect hurricane, swearing, that he knew a devil from a jack daw as well as e'er a man in the three kingdoms. He owned, indeed, that the birds were found, but denied that they were the occasion of the uproar. For my own part, Master, I believe much may be said on both sides of the question: tho', to be sure, the devil is always going about, as the saying is."

This circumstantial account, extraordinary as it was never altered one feature in the countenance of Mr Pickle, who having heard it to an end, took the pipe from his mouth, saying, with a look of infinite sagacity and deliberation, " I do suppose he is of the Cornish Trunnions. What sort of a woman is his spouse?" Spouse! (cried the other,) odds heart! I don't think he would marry the queen of Sheba. Lack-a-day! Sir, he won't suffer his own maids to lie in the garrison, but turns them into an out-house, every night before the watch is set. Bless your honour's soul; he is, as it were, a very oddish

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kind of a gentleman. Your Worſhip would have ſeen him before now; for when he is well, he and my good Mr Hatchway come hither every evening, and drink a couple of canns of rumbo a-piece; but he has been confined to his houſe this fortnight by a plaguy fit of the gout, which, I'll aſſure your worſhip, is a good penny out of my pocket.

At that inſtant, Mr Pickle's ears were ſaluted with ſuch a ſtrange noiſe, as even diſcompoſed the muſcles of his face, which gave immediate indications of alarm. This compoſition of notes at firſt reſembled the crying of quails, and croaking of bull-frogs but as it approached nearer, he could diſtinguiſh articulate ſounds pronounced with great violence, in ſuch a cadence as one would expect to hear from a human creature ſcolding through the organs of an aſs. It was neither ſpeaking nor braying, but a ſurpriſing mixture of both, employed in the utterance of terms abſolutely unintelligible to our wondering merchant, who had juſt opened his mouth to expreſs his curioſity, when the landlord, ſtarting up at the well-known ſound, cried, "Odds niggers! there is the commodore with his company, as ſure as I live;" and with his apron began to wipe the duſt of an elbow chair placed at one ſide of the fire, and kept ſacred for the eaſe and convenience of this infirm comander. While he was thus occupied, a voice ſtill more uncouth than the former bauled aloud, "Ho! the houſe a hoy!" upon which the publican clapping an hand to each ſide of his head, with his thumbs fixed on his ears, rebellowed in the ſame tone, which he had learned to imitate, Hilloah. The vioce again exclaimed, Have you got any attornies aboard?" and when the landlord replied, No, no;" this man of ſtrange expectation came in, ſupported by his two dependants and

and displayed a figure every way answerable to the oddity of his character. He was in stature at least six feet high, though he had contracted an habit of stooping, by living so long on board; his complexion was tawny, and his aspect rendered hideous by a large scar across his nose, and a patch that covered the place of an eye. Being seated in his chair, with great formality the landlord complimented him upon his being able to come abroad again; and having, in a whisper, communicated the name of his fellow-guest, whom the commodore already knew by report, went to prepare, with all imaginable dispatch, the first allowance of his favourite liquor in three separate canns, (for each was accommodated with his own portion apart;) while the lieutenant sat down on the blind side of his commodore, and Tom Pipes, knowing his distance, with great modesty took his station in the rear. After a pause of some minutes, the conversation was begun by this ferocious chief, who, fixing his eye upon the lieutenant with a sternness of countenance not to be described, addressed him in these words, "D—n my eyes, Hatchway, I always took you to be a better seaman than to overseat our chaise in such fair weather. Blood! did'nt I tell you we were running bump ashore, and bid you set in the lee-brace, and haul upon a wind?" "Yes, replied the other with an arch sneer, I do confess as how you did give such orders, after you had run us foul of a post, so as that the carriage lay along, and could not right herself." "I run you foul of a post! cried the commander; d—r my heart! you are a pretty dog, an't you to tell me so aboveboard to my face? Did I take charge of the chaise? Did I stand at the helm?" "No, (answered Hatchway,) I must confess you did not steer; but howsomever, you cunned all the

way, and ſo, as you could not ſee how the land lay being blind of your larboard eye, we were faſt aſhore before you knew any thing of the matter. Pipes (who ſtood abaft) can teſtify the truth of what I ſay." "D—n my limbs! reſumed the commodore, I don't value what you or Pipes ſay a rope-yarn. You're a couple of mutinous—I'll ſay no more; but you ſhan't run your rig upon me. Damn ye, I am the man that learn'd you, Jack Hatchway, to ſplice a rope, and raiſe a perpendicular,"

The lieutenant, who was perfectly well acquainted with the trim of his captain, did not chuſe to carry on the altercation any farther; but, taking up his cann, drank to the health of the ſtranger, who very courteouſly returned the compliment without, however, preſuming to join in the converſation which ſuffered a conſiderable pauſe. During this interruption, Mr Hatchway's wit diſplayed itſelf in ſeveral practical jokes upon the commodore, with whom, he knew, it was dangerous to tamper in any other way. Being without the ſphere of his viſion he ſecurely pilfered his tobacco, drunk his rumbo, made wry faces, and (to uſe the vulgar phraſe, cocked his eye at him, to the no ſmall entertainment of the ſpectators, Mr Pickle himſelf not excepted, who gave evident tokens of uncommon ſatisfaction at the dexterity of this marine pantomime.

Meanwhile the captain's choler gradually ſubſided, and he was pleaſed to deſire Hatchway, by the familiar and friendly diminutive of Jack, to read a news-paper that lay on the table before him. This taſk was accordingly undertaken by the lame lieutenant, who among other paragraphs, read that which follows, with an elevation of voice that ſeemed to prognoſticate ſomething extraordinary: "We are informed, that Admiral Bower will very ſoon be

be created a Britiſh peer, for his eminent ſervices during the war, particularly in his late engagement with the French fleet." Trunnion was thunderſtruck at this piece of intelligence. The mug dropt from his hand, and ſhivered into a thouſand pieces; his eye gliſtened like that of a rattle-ſnake, and ſome minutes elapſed before he could pronounce, "Avaſt, overhaul that article again." It was no ſooner read the ſecond time, than ſmiting the table with his fiſt, he ſtarted up, and with the moſt violent emphaſis of rage and indignation, exclaimed, "D—n my heart and liver! 'tis a land lie, d'ye ye ſee; and I will mantain it to be a lie, from the ſprit-ſail-yard to the mizen top-ſail haulyards! Blood and thunder! Will. Bower a Peer of this realm! a fellow of yeſterday, that ſcarce knows a maſt from a manger; a ſnotty-noſe boy, whom I myſelf have ordered to the gun for ſtealing eggs out of the hen-coops! and I, Hawſer Trunnion, who commanded a ſhip before he could keep a reckoning, am laid aſide, d'ye ſee and forgotten? If ſo be, as this be the caſe, there is a rotten plank in our conſtitution, which ought to be hove down and repaired, damn my eyes! For my own part, d'ye ſee, I was none of your Guinea pigs; I did not riſe in the ſervice by parliamenteering intereſt, or a handſome bitch of a wife. I was not hoiſted over the bellies of better men, nor ſtrutted athwart the quarter-deck in a laced doublet, and thingumbobs at the wriſts. Damn my limbs! I have been a hard working man, and ſerved all offices on board, from cook's ſhifter to the command of a veſſel. Here, you Tunnely, there's the hand of a ſeaman, you dog!" So ſaying he laid hold on the landlord's fiſt, and honoured him with ſuch a ſqueeze, as compelled him to roar with great vociferation, to the infinite ſatisfaction of the commo-

dore, whoſe features were a little unbended, by this acknowledgment of his vigour; and he thus proceeded in a leſs outrageous ſtrain: "They make a damn'd noiſe about this engagement with the French; but, agad! it was no more than a bumboat battle, in compariſon with ſome that I have ſeen. There was old Rook and Jennings, and another, whom I'll be damn'd before I name, that knew what fighting was. As for my own ſhare, d'ye ſee, I am none of thoſe that hollow in their own commendation: but if ſo be that I were minded to ſtand my own trumpeter, ſome of thoſe little fellows that hold their heads ſo high, would be taken all back, as the ſaying is; they would be aſhamed to ſhew their colours, d—n my eyes! I once lay eight glaſſes along-ſide of the Fleur de Lous, a French man of war, though her metal was heavier, and her compliment larger by an hundred hands than mine. You, Jack Hatchway, damn ye what d'ye grin at? D'ye think I tell a ſtory, becauſe you never heard it before?"

"Why, look ye, Sir, (anſwered the lieutenant I am glad to find you can ſtand yonr own trumpeter, on occaſion; thof I wiſh you would change the tune, for that is the ſame you have been piping every day for theſe ten months paſt. Tunnely himſelf will tell you, he has heard it five hundred times." "God forgive you, Mr Hatchway, ſaid the landlord, interrupting him; as I'm an honeſt man and a houſekeeper, I never heard a ſyllable of the matter."

This declaration, though not ſtrictly true, was extremely agreeable to Mr Trunnion, who, with an air of triumph, obſerved, "Ah! Jack, I thought I ſhould bring you up, with your gibes and your jokes; but ſuppoſe you had heard it before, is that any

any reaſon why it ſhouldn't be told to another perſon? There's the ſtranger, belike he has heard it five hundred times too; han't ye brother?" addreſſing himſelf to Mr Pickle, who, replying with a look expreſſing curioſity, "No, never;" he thus went on: "Well, you ſeem to be an honeſt, quiet ſort of a man; and therefore you muſt know, as I ſaid before. I fell in with a French man of war, Cape Finiſterre bearing about ſix leagues on the weather bow, and the chace three leagues to the leeward, going before the wind: whereupon I ſet my ſtudding ſails, and coming up with her hoiſted my jack and enſign, and poured in a whole broadſide before you could count three rattlins in the mizen ſhrouds; for I always keep a good look out, and love to have the firſt fire." "That I'll be ſworn, ſaid Hatchway; for the day we made the Triumph you ordered the men to fire when ſhe was hull-to, by the ſame token we below pointed the guns at a flight of gulls; and I won a cann of punch from the gunner, by killing the firſt bird." Exaſperated at this ſarcaſm, he replied with great vehemence. You lie, lubber! d—n your bones! what buſineſs have you to come always athwart my hauſe in this manner? You Pipes, was upon deck, and can bear witneſs, whether or not I fired too ſoon. Speak you blood of a——, and that upon the word of a ſeaman how did the chace bear of us when I gave orders to fire?"

Pipes, who had hitherto ſat ſilent, being thus called upon to give evidence, after diverſe ſtrange geſticulations, opened his mouth like a gaſping cod, and with a cadence like that of the eaſt wind ſinging through a cranny, pronounced, "Half a quarter of a league right upon our leebeam." "Nearer, you porpuſs-fac'd ſwab (cried the commodore) nearer

nearer by twelve fathom: but howſomever, that's enough to prove the falſehood of Hatchway's jaw —and ſo, brother, d'ye ſee, (turning to Mr Pickle) I lay along-ſide of the Fleur de Lous, yard-arm, and yard-arm, plying our great guns and ſmall arms, and heaving in ſtink-pots, powder-bottles, and hand-grenades, till our ſhot was all expended, double-headed, partridge and grape: then we loaded with iron crows, marline ſpikes, and old nails; but finding the Frenchman took a great deal of drubbing, and that he had ſhot away all our rigging, and killed and wounded a great number of our men, dy'e ſee, I reſolved to run him on board upon his quarter, and ſo ordered our grapplings to be got ready; but Monſieur perceiving what we were about, filled his topſails and ſheered off, leaving us like a log upon the water, and our ſcuppers running with blood."

Mr Pickle and the landlord paid ſuch extraordinary attention to the rehearſal of this exploit, that Trunnion was encouraged to entertain them with more ſtories of the ſame nature, after which he obſerved, by way of encomium on the Government, that all he had gained in the ſervice was a lame foot and the loſs of an eye.

The lieutenant, who could not find in his heart to loſe any opportunity of being witty at the expence of his commander, gave a looſe to his ſatirical talent once more, ſaying, "I have heard, as how you came by your lame foot by having your upper decks overſtowed with liquor, whereby you became crank, and rolled, d'ye ſee, in ſuch a manner, that by a pitch of the ſhip your ſtarboard heel was jammed in one of the ſcuppers; and as for the matter of your eye, that was knocked out by your own crew when the Lightning was paid off: there's

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poor Pipes, who was beaten into all the colours of the rainbow for taking your part, and giving you time to ſheer off; and I don't find as how you have rewarded him according as he deſerves.' As the commodore could not deny the truth of theſe anecdotes, however unſeaſonably they were introduced, he affected to receive them with good humour, as jokes of the lieutenant's own inventing, and replied, "Ay, ay, Jack, every body knows your tongue is no ſlander; but, howſomever, I'll work you to an oil for this, you dog." So ſaying, he lifted up one of his crutches, intending to lay it gently acroſs Mr Hatchway's pate; but Jack, with great agility, tilted up his wooden leg, with which he warded off the blow, to the no ſmall admiration of Mr Pickle, and utter aſtoniſhment of the landlord, who, by-the-bye, had expreſſed the ſame amazement, at the ſame feat, at the ſame hour, every night for three months before. Trunnion then directing his eye to the boat-ſwain's mate, "You, Pipes, (ſaid he) do you go about and tell people that I did not reward you for ſtanding by me, when I was huſsled by thoſe rebellious rapſcallions? damn you, ha'n't you been rated on the books ever ſince?" Tom, who indeed had no words to ſpare, ſat ſmoking his pipe with great indifference, and never dreamed of paying any regard to theſe interrogations, which being repeated and reinforced with many oaths that however produced no effect, the commodore pulled out his purſe, ſaying, "Here, you bitch's baby, here's ſomething better than a ſmart ticket," and threw it at his ſilent deliverer, who received and pocketed his bounty, without the leaſt demonſtration of ſurpriſe or ſatisfaction; while the donor, turning to Mr Pickle, "You ſee brother, (ſaid he) I make good the old ſaying, We

ſailors

ſailors get money like horſes, and ſpend it like aſſes. Come, Pipes, let's have the boat-ſwain's whiſtle, and be jovial." This muſician accordingly applied to his mouth the ſilver inſtrument that hung at a button-hole of his jacket, by a chain of the ſame metal, and though not quite ſo raviſhing as the pipe of Hermes, produced a ſound ſo loud and ſhrill, that the ſtranger (as it were inſtinctively) ſtopped his ears, to preſerve his organs of hearing from ſuch a dangerous invaſion. The prelude being thus executed, Pipes fixed his eyes upon the egg of an oſtrich that depended from the ceiling, and without once moving them from that object, performed the whole cantata in a tone of voice that ſeemed to be the joint iſſue of an Iriſh bagpipe and a ſow-gelder's horn; the commodore, the lieutenant, and landlord joined in the chorus, repeating this elegant ſtanza,

Buſtle, buſtle, brave boys!
Let us ſing, let us toil,
And drink all the while,
Since labour's the price of our joys.

The third line was no ſooner pronounced, than the cann was lifted to every man's mouth with admirable uniformity; and the next word taken up at the end of their draught with a twang equally expreſſive and harmonious. In ſhort, the company began to underſtand one another; Mr Pickle ſeemed to reliſh the entertainment, and a correſpondence immediately commenced between him and Trunnion, who ſhook him by the hand, drank to further acquaintance, and even invited him to a meſs of pork and peaſe in the garriſon. The compliment was returned, good fellowſhip prevailed,

and

and the night was pretty far advanced, when the merchant's man arrived with a lanthorn to light his master home; upon which the new friends parted, after a mutual promise of meeting next evening in the same place.

CHAP. III.

Mrs Grizzle *exerts herself in finding a proper match for her brother; who is accordingly introduced to the young lady, whom he marries in due season.*

I Have been the more circumstantial in opening the character of Trunnion, because he bears a considerable share in the course of these memoirs; but now it is high time to resume the consideration of Mrs Grizzle, who, since her arrival in the country, had been engrossed by a double care, namely, that of finding a suitable match for her brother, and a comfortable yoke-fellow for herself.

Neither was this aim the result of any sinister or frail suggestion, but the pure dictates of that laudable ambition, which prompted her to the preservation of the family name. Nay, so disinterested was she in this pursuit, that, postponing her nearest concern, or at least leaving her own fate to the silent operation of her charms, she laboured with such indefatigable zeal in behalf of her brother, that before they had been three months settled in the country, the general topic of conversation in the neighbourhood, was an intended match between the rich Mr Pickle and the fair Miss Appleby, daughter of a gentleman who lived in the next parish, and who, though he had but little fortune

to

to beſtow upon his chiidren, had (to uſe his own phraſe) repleniſhed their veins with ſome of the beſt blood in the country.

This young lady, whoſe character and diſpoſition Mrs Grizzle had inveſtigated to her own ſatisfaction, was deſtined for the ſpouſe of Mr Pickle, and an overture accordingly made to her father, who being overjoyed at the propoſal, gave his conſent without heſitation, and even recommended the immediate execution of the project with ſuch eagerneſs, as ſeemed to indicate either a ſuſpicion of Mr Pickle's conſtancy, or a diffidence of his own daughter's complexion, which, perhaps, he thought too ſanguine, to keep much longer cool. The previous point being thus ſettled, our merchant, at the inſtigation of Mrs Grizzle, went to viſit his future father-in-law, and was introduced to the daughter, with whom he had, that ſame afternoon, an opportunity of being alone. What paſſed in that interview I never could learn, though, from the character of the ſuitor, the reader may juſtly conclude, that ſhe was not much teized with the impertinence of his addreſſes. He was not, I believe, the leſs welcome for that reaſon: certain it is, ſhe made no objection to his taciturnity, and when her father communicated his reſolution, acquieſced with the moſt pious reſignation. But Mrs Grizzle, in order to give the lady a more favourable idea of his intellects than what his converſation could poſſibly inſpire, was reſolved to dictate a letter, which her brother ſhould tranſcribe and tranſmit to his miſtreſs, as the produce of his own underſtanding; and had actually compoſed a very tender billet for this purpoſe; yet her intention was entirely fruſtrated by the miſapprehenſion of the lover himſelf, who in conſequence of his ſiſter's repeated

peated admonitions, anticipates her ſcheme, by writing for himſelf, and diſpatching the letter one afternoon, while Mrs Grizzle was viſiting at the parſon's.

Neither was this ſtep the effect of his vanity or precipitation; but having been often aſſured by his ſiſter, that it was abſolutely neceſſary for him to make a declaration of his love in writing, he took this opportunity of acting in conformity with her advice, when his imagination was unengaged or undiſturbed by any other ſuggeſtion, without ſuſpecting in the leaſt that ſhe intended to ſave him the trouble of exerciſing his own genius. Left therefore, as he imagined, to his own inventions, he ſat down and produced the following morceau. which was tranſmitted to Mrs Appleby, before his ſiſter and counſellor had the leaſt intimation of the affair.

Miſs SALLY APPLEBY.

Madam,

UNderſtanding you have a parcel of heart warranted ſound, to be diſpoſed of, ſhall be willing to treat for ſaid commodity, on reaſonable terms; doubt not, ſhall agree for ſame; ſhall wait of you for further information, when and where you ſhall appoint. This the needful from.

Yours, &c.

GAM PICKLE.

The

This laconic epiſtle, ſimple and unadorned as it was, met with as cordial a reception from the perſon to whom it was addreſſed, as if it had been couched in the moſt elegant terms that delicacy of paſſion and cultivated genius could ſupply: nay, I believe, was the more welcome, on account of its mercantile plainneſs; becauſe, when an advantageous match is in view, a ſenſible woman often conſiders the flowery profeſſions and rapturous exclamations of love, as enſnaring ambiguities, or at beſt impertinent preliminaries that retard the treaty they are deſigned to promote: whereas Mr Pickle removed all diſagreeable uncertainty, by deſcending at once to the moſt intereſting particular.

She had no ſooner, as a dutiful child, communicated this billet-doux to her father, than he, as a careful parent, viſited Mr Pickle, and in preſence of Mrs Grizzle, demanded a formal explanation of his ſentiments with regard to his daughter Sally. Mr Gamaliel, without any ceremony, aſſured him he had a reſpect for the young woman, and with his good leave, would take her for better for worſe. Mr Appleby, after having expreſſed his ſatisfaction that he had fixed his affections in his family, comforted the lover with the aſſurance of his being agreeable to the young lady; and they forthwith proceeded to the articles of the marriage-ſettlement, which being diſcuſſed and determined, a lawyer was ordered to engroſs them; the wedding -cloathes were bought, and, in ſhort, a day was appointed for the celebration of their nuptials, to which every body of any faſhion in the neighbourhood was invited. Among theſe Commodore Trunnion and Mr Hatchway were not forgotten, being the ſole companions of the bridegroom, with whom

whom, by this time, they had contracted a ſort of intimacy at their nocturnal rendezvous.

They had received a previous intimation of what was on the anvil from the landlord, before Mr Pickle though proper to declare himſelf; in conſequence of which. the topic of the one-eyed commander's diſcourſe at their meeting, for ſeveral evenings before, had been the folly and plague of matrimony; on which he held forth with great vehemence of abuſe levelled at the fair ſex, whom he repreſented as devils incarnate, ſent from hell to torment mankind; and, in particular, inveighed againſt old maids, for whom he ſeemed to entertain a ſingular averſion; while his friend Jack confirmed the truth of all his allegations, and gratified his own malignant vein at the ſame time, by clenching every ſentence with a ſly joke upon the married ſtate, built upon ſome alluſion to a ſhip or ſeafaring life. He compared a woman to a great gun loaded with fire, brimſtone, and noiſe, whic being violently heated, will bounce and fly, and play the devil, if you don't take ſpecial care of her breechings. He ſaid ſhe was like a hurricane that never blows from one quarter, but veers about to all points of the compaſs: he likened her to a painted galley curiouſly rigged, with a leak in her hold, which her huſband would never by able to ſtop. He obſerved, that her inclinations were like the Bay of Biſcay; for why? becauſe you may heave your deep ſea-lead long enough, without ever reaching the bottom. That he who comes to anchor on a wife, may find himſelf moored in damn'd foul ground, and, after all, can't for his blood ſlip his cable; and that for his own part, thof he might make ſhort trips for paſtime, he would never embark in woman on the voyage of life, be-

 cauſe

cauſe he was afraid of foundering in the firſt foul weather.

In all probability, theſe inſinuations made ſome impreſſion on the mind of Mr Pickle, who was not very much inclined to run great riſks of any kind; but the injunctions and importunities of his ſiſter, who was bent upon the match, overbalanced the opinion of his ſea-friends, who finding him determined to marry, notwithſtanding all the hints of caution they had thrown out, reſolved to accept his invitation, and honoured his nuptials with their preſence accoadingly.

CHAP. IV.

The behaviour of Mrs Grizzle *at the wedding, with an account of the guests.*

I Hope it will not be thought uncharitable, if I advance, by way of conjecture, that Mrs Grizzle, on this grand occaſion, ſummoned her whole exertion, to play off the artillery of her charms, upon the ſingle gentlemen who were invited to the entertainment: ſure I am, ſhe diſplayed to the beſt advantage all the engaging-qualities ſhe poſſeſſed: her affability at dinner was altogether uncommon, her attention to the gueſts was ſuperfluouſly hoſpitable, her tongue was ſheathed with a moſt agreeable and infantine liſp, her addreſs was perfectly obliging; and though, conſcious of the extraordinary capacity of her mouth, ſhe would not venture to hazard a laugh, ſhe modelled her lips into an enchanting ſimper, which played upon her countenance all day long: nay, ſhe even profited by that defect in her viſion we have already obſerved,

ed, and ſecurely contemplated thoſe features which were moſt to her likeing, while the reſt of the company believed her regards were diſpoſed in a quite contrary direction. With what humility of complaiſance did ſhe receive the compliments of thoſe who could not help praiſing the elegance of the banquet and how pioufly did ſhe ſeize that opportunity of commemorating the honours of her ſire, by obſerving that it was no merit in her to underſtand ſomething of entertainments, as ſhe had occaſion to preſide at ſo many during the mayoralty of her papa! Far from diſcovering the leaſt ſymptom of pride and exultation, when the opulence of her family became the ſubject of converſation, ſhe aſſumed a ſeverity of countenance; and after having moralized on the vanity of riches, declared, that thoſe who looked upon her as a fortune, were very much miſtaken; for her father had left her no more than five thouſand pounds, which with what little ſhe had ſaved of the intereſt ſince his death, was all ſhe had to depend upon: indeed, if ſhe had placed her chief felicity in wealth, ſhe ſhould not have been ſo forward in deſtroying her own expectations, by adviſing and promoting the event at which they were now ſo happily aſſembled; but ſhe hoped ſhe ſhould always have virtue enough to poſtpone any intereſted conſiderations, when it ſhould happen to claſh with the happineſs of her friends. Finally, ſuch was her modeſty and ſelf-denial, that ſhe induſtriouſly informed thoſe whom it might concern, that ſhe was no leſs than three years older than the bride; though ſhe added ten to the reckoning, ſhe would have committed no miſtake in point of computation.

To contribute as much as lay in her power to the ſatisfaction of all preſent, ſhe in the afternoon re-

galed them with a tune on the harpſichord, accompanied with her voice, which though not the moſt melodious in the world, I dare ſay would have been equally at their ſervice, could ſhe have vied with Philomel in ſong; and as the laſt effort of her complaiſance, when dancing was propoſed, ſhe was prevailed upon, at the requeſt of her new ſiſter, to open the ball in perſon.

In a word Mrs Grizzle was the principal figure in this feſtival, and almoſt eclipſed the bride, who far from ſeeming to diſpute the pre-eminence, very wiſely allowed her to make the beſt of her talents; contenting herſelf with the lot to which fortune had already called her, and which ſhe imagined would not be the leſs deſirable, if her ſiſter-in-law were detached from the family.

I believe I need ſcarce advertiſe the reader, that, during this whole entertainment, the commodore and his lieutenant were quite out of their element; & this, indeed, was the caſe with the bridegroom himſelf, who being utterly unacquainted with any ſort of polite commerce, found himſelf under a very diſagreeable reſtraint during the whole ſcene.

Trunnion who had ſcarce ever been on ſhore till he was paid off, and never once in his whole life in the company of any females above the rank of thoſe who herd upon the point of Portſmouth, was more embarraſſed about his behaviour than if he had been ſurrounded at ſea by the whole French navy. He had never pronounced the word *Madam* ſince he was born; ſo that far from entering into converſation with the ladies, he would not even return the compliment, or give the leaſt nod of civility when they drank to his health; and I verily believe, would rather have ſuffered ſuffocation than allow the ſimple phraſe, *your ſervant*, to proceed from his mouth.

He

He was altogether as inflexible with respect to the attitudes of his body; for either through obstinacy or bashfulness, he sat upright without motion, insomuch that he provoked the mirth of a certain wag who, addessing himself to the lieutenant, asked, whether that was the commodore himself, or the wooden lion that used to stand at his gate? an image to which it must be owned, Mr Trunnion's person bore no faint resemblance.

Mr Hatchway, who was not quite so unpolished as the commodore, and had certain notions that, seemed to approach the ideas of common life, made a less uncouth appearance; but then he was a wit, and though of a very peculiar genius, partook largely of that disposition which is common to all wits who never enjoy themselves, except when their talents meet with those marks of distinction and veneration, which (in their own opinion) they deserve.

These circumstances being premised, it is not to be wondered at, if this triumvirate made no objections to the proposal, when some of the grave personages of the company made a motion for adjourning into another apartment, where they might enjoy their pipes and bottles, while the young folks, indulged themselves in the continuance of their own favourite diversion. Thus rescued, as it were, from a state of annihilation, the first use the two lads of the castle made of their existence, was to ply the bridegroom so hard with bumpers, that in less than an hour he made divers efforts to sing, and soon after was carried to bed, deprived of all manner of sensation, to the utter disappointment of the bridemen and maids, who, by this accident, were prevented from throwing the stocking, and performing certain other ceremonies practised on such

occasions. As for the bride, she bore this misfortune with great good-humour, and indeed, on all occasions, behaved like a discreet woman, perfectly well accquainted with the nature of her situation.

CHAP. V.

Mrs Pickle assumes the reins of government in her own family; her sister-in law undertakes an enterprise of great moment; but is for some time diverted from her purpose by a very interesting consideration.

WHatever deference, not to say submission, she had paid to Mrs Grizzle before she was so nearly allied to her family, she no sooner became Mrs Pickle, than she thought it incumbent upon her to act up to the dignity of the character; and the very day after the marriage, ventured to dispute with her sister-in-law on the subject of her own pedigree, which she affirmed to be more honourable in all respects than that of her husband; observing, that several younger brothers of her house had arrived at the station of Lord Mayor of London, which was the highest pitch of greatness, that any of Mr Pickle's predecessors had ever attained.

This presumption was like a thunderbolt to Mrs Grizzle, who began to perceive that she had not succeeded quite so well as she imagined, in selecting for her brother a gentle and obedient yoke-fellow, who would always treat her with that profound respect which she thought due to her superior genius, and be entirely regulated by her advice and direction;

tion: however, she still continued to manage the reins of government in the house, reprehending the servants as usual; an office she performed with great capacity, and in which she seemed to take singular delight, until Mrs Pickle, on pretence of consulting her ease, told her one day she would take that trouble upon herself, and for the future assume the management of her own family. Nothing could be more mortifying to Mrs Grizzle than such a declaration, to which, after a considerable pause, and strange distortion of look, she replied, "I shall never refuse or repine at any trouble that may conduce to my brother's advantage." "Dear Madam, (answered the sister, I am infinitely obliged to your kind concern for Mr Pickle's interest, which I consider as my own, but I cannot bear to see you a sufferer by your friendship; and therefore, insist upon exempting you from the fatigue you have born so long."

In vain did the other protest that she took pleasure in the task; Mrs Pickle ascribed the assurance to her excess of complaisance, and expressed such tenderness of zeal for her dear sister's health and tranquillity, that the reluctant maiden found herself obliged to resign her authority, without enjoying the least pretext for complaining of her being deposed.

This disgrace was attended by a fit of peevish devotion, that lasted three or four weeks; during which period, she had the additional chagrin of seeing the young lady gain an absolute ascendency over the mind of her brother, who was persuaded to set up a gay equipage, and improve his housekeeping, by an augmentation in his expence, to the amount of a thousand a-year at least: though this alteration

alteration in the œconomy of his houſehold effected no change in his own diſpoſition, or manner of life; for, ſoon as the painful ceremony of receiving and returning viſits was performed, he had recourſe again to the company of his ſea-friends, with whom he ſpent the beſt part of his time. But, if he was ſatisfied with his condition, the caſe was otherwiſe with Mrs Grizzle, who finding her importance in the family greatly diminiſhed, her attractions neglected by all the male-ſex in the neighbourhood, and the withering hand of time hang threatening over her head, began to feel the horror of eternal virginity, and, in a ſort of deſperation, reſolved at any rate to reſcue herſelf from that reproachful and uncomfortable ſituation. Thus determined, ſhe formed a plan, the execution of which, to a ſpirit leſs enterpriſing and ſufficient than her's would have appeared altogether impracticable; this was no other than to make a conqueſt of the commodore's heart, which the reader will eaſily believe was not very ſuſceptible of tender impreſſions; but, on the contrary, fortified with inſenſibility and prejudice againſt the charms of the whole ſex, and particularly prepoſſeſſed to the prejudice of that claſs diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of old maids, in which Mrs Grizzle was, by this time, unhappily ranked. She nevertheleſs took the field, and having inveſted this ſeemingly impregnable fortreſs, began to break gronnd one day, when Trunnion dined at her brother's, by ſpringing certain inſnaring commendations on the honeſty and ſincerity of ſea-faring people, paying a particular attention to his plate, and affecting a ſimper of approbation at every thing he ſaid, which by any means ſhe could conſtrue into a joke, or with modeſty be ſuppoſed to hear: nay, even when he left decency on the

left

left hand (which was often the case), she ventured to reprimand his freedom of speech with a gracious grin, saying, "Sure you gentlemen belonging to the sea have such an odd way with you." But all this complacency was so ineffectual, that, far from suspecting the true cause of it, the commodore, that very evening, at the club, in the presence of her brother, with whom, by this time, he could take any manner of freedom, did not scruple to damn her for a squinting, block-faced, chattering pils-kitchen, and immediately after drank despair to all old maids. The toast Mr Pickle pledged without the least hesitation, and next day, intimated to his sister, who bore the indignity with surprising resignation, and did not therefore desist from her scheme, unpromising as it seemed to be, until her attention was called off, and engaged in another care, which, for some time interrupted the progress of this design. Her sister had not been married many months, when she exhibited evident symptoms of pregnancy, to the general satisfaction of all concerned, and the inexpressible joy of Mrs Grizzle, who (as we have already hinted) was more interested in the preservation of the family-name, than in any other consideration whatever. She, therefore, no sooner discovered appearances to justify and confirm her hopes, than postponing her own purpose, and laying aside that pique and resentment she had conceived from the behaviour of Mrs Pickle, when she superseded her authority; or perhaps, considering her in no other light than that of the vehicle which contained, and was destined to convey her brother's heir to light, she determined to exert her uttermost in nursing, tending, and cherishing her, during the term of her important charge. With this view she purchased

Culpepper's

Culpepper's Midwifery, which, with that sagacious performance dignified with Aristode's name, she studied with indefatigable care, and diligently perused the Compleat Housewife, together with Quincy's Dispensatory, culling every jelly, marmalade and conserve which these authors recommend as either salutary or toothsome, for the benefit and comfort of her sister-in-law, during her gestation. She restricted her from eating roots, pot-herbs, fruit, and all sorts of vegetables; and one day when Mrs Pickle had plucked a peach with her own hand, and was in the very act of putting it between her teeth, Mrs Grizzle perceived the rash attempt, and running up to her, fell upon her knees in the garden, intreating her, with tears in her eyes to resist such a pernicious appetite. Her request was no sooner complied with, than recollecting that, if her sister's longing was baulked, the child might be affected with some disagreeable mark or deplorable disease, she begged as earnestly that she would swallow the fruit, and in the mean time ran for some cordial water of her own composing, which she forced upon her sister, as an antidote to the poison she had received.

This excessive zeal and tenderness did not fail to be very troublesome to Mrs Pickle, who, having revolved divers plans for the recovery of her own ease, at length determined to engage Mrs Grizzle in such employment as would interrupt that close attendance which she found so teasing and disagreeable. Neither did she wait long for an opportunity of putting her resolution in practice. The very next day, a gentleman happening to dine with Mr Pickle, unfortunately mentioned a pine-apple, part of which he had eaten a week before at the house of a nobleman who lived in another

part

part of the country, at the diſtance of an hundred miles at leaſt.

The name of this fatal fruit was no ſooner pronounced: than Mrs Grizzle, who inceſſantly watched her ſiſter's looks, took the alarm, becauſe ſhe thought they gave certain indications of curioſity and deſire: and after having obſerved that ſhe herſelf never could eat pine-apples, which were altogether unnatural productions, extorted by the force of artificial fire, out of filthy manure, aſked with a faultering voice, if Mrs Pickle was not of that way of thinking? This young lady, who wanted neither ſlyneſs nor penetration, at once divined her meaning, and replied with ſeeming unconcern, that, for her own part, ſhe ſhould never repine, if there was not a pine-apple in the univerſe, provided ſhe could indulge herſelf with the fruits of her own country.

This anſwer was calculated for the benefit of the ſtranger, who would certainly have ſuffered for his imprudence by the reſentment of Mrs Grizzle, had her ſiſter expreſſed the leaſt reliſh for the fruit in queſtion. It had the deſired effect, and re-eſtabliſhed the peace of the company, which was not a little endangered by the gentleman's want of conſideration. Next morning, however, after breakfaſt, the pregnant lady, in purſuance of her plan, yawned (as it were by accident) full in the face of her maiden-ſiſter, who being infinitely diſturbed by this convulſion, affirmed it was a ſymptom of longing, and inſiſted upon knowing the object in deſire; when Mrs Pickle, affecting an affected ſmile, told her ſhe had eaten a moſt delicious pine-apple in her ſleep. This declaration was attended with an immediate ſcream, uttered by Mrs Grizzle, who inſtantly perceiving her ſiſter ſurprized at the exclamation, claſped her in her arms,

arms, and assured her, with a sort of hysterical laugh, that she could not help screaming with joy, because she had it in her power to gratify her dear sister's wish; a lady in the neighbourhood having promised to send her, in a present, a couple of delicate pine-apples, which she would that very day go in quest of.

Mrs Pickle would by no means consent to this proposal, on pretence of sparing the other unnecessary fatigue; and assured her, that if she had any desire to eat a pine-apple, it was so faint, that the disappointment could produce no bad consequence. But this assurance was conveyed in a manner (which she knew very well how to adopt) that instead of dissuading, rather stimulated Mrs Grizzle to set out immediately; not on a visit to that lady, whose promise she herself had feigned, with a view of consulting her sister's tranquillity, but on a random search through the whole country for this unlucky fruit, which was like to produce so much vexation and prejudice to her and her father's house.

During three whole days and nights, did she attended by a valet, ride from place to place without success, unmindful of her health, and careless of her reputation, that began to suffer from the nature of her inquiry, which was pursued with such peculiar eagerness and distraction, that every body with whom she conversed looked upon her as an unhappy person, whose intellects were not a little disordered.

Baffled in all her researches within the country, she at length resolved to visit that very nobleman, at whose house the officious stranger had been (for her) so unfortunately regaled, and actually arrived in a post-chaise at the place of his habitation, where

where ſhe introduced her buſineſs as an affair on which the happineſs of a whole family depended. By virtue of a preſent to his Lordſhip's gardener, ſhe procured the Heſperian fruit, with which ſhe returned in triumph.

CHAP. VI.

Mrs Grizzle *is indefatigable in gratifying her ſiſter's longings.* Peregrine *is born, and managed contrary to the directions and remonſtrances of his aunt, who is diſguſted upon that account; and reſumes the plan which ſhe had before rejected.*

THE ſucceſs of this device would have encouraged Mrs Pickle to practiſe more of the ſame ſort upon her ſiſter-in-law, had ſhe not been deterred by a violent fever which ſeized her zealous ally, in conſequence of the fatigue and uneaſineſs ſhe had undergone; which, while it laſted, as effectually conduced to her repoſe, as any other ſtratagem ſhe could invent. But Mrs Grizzle's health was no ſooner reſtored, than the other, being as much incommoded as ever, was obliged, in her own defence, to have recourſe to ſome other contrivance: and managed her artifices in ſuch a manner, as leaves it at this day a doubt whether ſhe was really ſo whimſical and capricious in her appetites as ſhe herſelf pretended to be; for her longings were not reſtricted to the demands of the palate and ſtomach, but alſo affected all the other organs of ſenſe, and even invaded her imagination, which at this period ſeemed to be ſtrangely diſeaſed.

One time ſhe longed to pinch her huſband's ear; and it was with infinite difficulty that his ſiſter could prevail upon him to undergo the operation. Yet this taſk was eaſy, in compariſon with another ſhe undertook for the gratification of Mrs Pickle's unaccountable deſire: which was no other than to perſuade the commodore to ſubmit his chin to the mercy of the big-bellied lady, who ardently wiſhed for an opportunity of plucking three black hairs from his beard. When this propoſal was firſt communicated to Mr Trunnion by the huſband, his anſwer was nothing but a dreadful effuſion of oaths, accompanied with ſuch a ſtare, and delivered in ſuch a tone of voice, as terrified the poor beſeecher into immediate ſilence; ſo that Mrs Grizzle was fain to take the whole enterpriſe upon herſelf, and next day went to the garriſon accordingly; where, having obtained entrance by means of the lieutenant, who, while his commander was aſleep, ordered her to be admitted for the joke's-ſake, ſhe waited patiently till he turned out, and then accoſted him in the yard, where he uſed to perform his morning-walk. He was thunder-ſtruck at the appearance of a woman in a place which he had hitherto kept ſacred from the whole ſex, and immediately began to utter an apoſtrophe to Tom Pipes, whoſe turn it was then to watch; when Mrs Grizzle falling on her knees before him, conjured him, with many pathetic ſupplications, to hear and grant her requeſt, which was no ſooner ſignified, than he bellowed in ſuch an outrageous manner that the whole court re-echoed the opprobrious term *bitch*; and the word *damnation*, which he repeated with ſurpriſing volubility, without any ſort of propriety or connection; and entered

tered into his penetralia, leaving the baffled devotee in the humble posture she had so unsuccessfully chosen to melt his obdurate heart.

Mortifying as this repulse must have been to a lady of her stately disposition, she did not relinquish her aim, but endeavoured to interest the commodore's counsellors and adherents in her cause. With this view she solicited the interest of Mr Hatchway, who, being highly pleased with a circumstance so productive of mirth and diversion, readily entered into her measures, and promised to employ his whole influence for her satisfaction. and as for the boatswain's mate, he was rendered propitious by the present of a guinea which she slipt into his hand. In short; Mrs Grizzle was continually engaged in this negociation for the space of ten days, during which the commodore was so incessantly pestered with her remonstrances, and the admonitions of his associates, that he swore his people had a design upon his life, which becoming a burden to him, he at last complied, and was conducted to the scene like a victim to the altar; or rather like a reluctant bear, when he is led to the stake amidst the shouts and cries of butchers and their dogs. After all, this victory was not quite so decisive as the conquerors imagined; for the patient being set, and the performer prepared with a pair of pincers, a small difficulty occurred: she could not for some time discern one black hair on the whole superficies of Mr Trunnion's face; when Mrs Grizzle, very much alarmed and disconcerted, had recourse to a magnifying glass that stood upon her toilette; and after a most accurate examination, discovered a fibre of a dusky hue, to which the instrument being applied, Mrs Pickle pulled it up by the roots, to the no

ſmall diſcompoſure of the owner, who feeling the ſmart much more ſevere than he had expected, ſtarted up, and ſwore he would not part with another hair to ſave them all from damnation.

Mr Hatchway exhorted him to patience and reſignation, Mrs Grizzle repeated her intreaties with great humility; but finding him deaf to all her prayers, and abſolute bent upon leaving the houſe, ſhe claſped his knees, and begged for the love of God that he would haye compaſſion upon a diſtreſſed family, and endure a little more for the ſake of the poor infant, who would otherwiſe be born with a gray beard upon its chin. Far from being melted, he was rather exaſperated by this reflection; to which he replied with great indignation, "Damn ye for a yaw-ſighted bitch! he'll be hang'd long enough before he has any beard at all:" ſo ſaying, he diſengaged himſelf from her embraces, flung out at the door, and halted homewards with ſuch ſurpriſing ſpeed, that the lieutenant could not overtake him until he had arrived at his own gate; and Mrs Grizzle was ſo much affected with his eſcape, that her ſiſter, in pure compaſſion, deſired ſhe would not afflict herſelf, proteſting that her own wiſh was already gratified, for ſhe had plucked three hairs at once, having from the beginning been dubious of the commodore's patience. But the labours of this aſſiduous kinſwoman did not end with the atchievement of this adventure; her eloquence or induſtry was employed without ceaſing, in the performance of other taſks impoſed by the ingenious craft of her ſiſter-in-law, who at another time conceived an inſuppreſſible affection for a fricaſſee of frogs, which ſhould be the genuine natives of France; ſo that there was a neceſſity for diſpatching a meſſenger on

on purpose to that kingdom: but as she could not depend upon the integrity of any common servant, Mrs Grizzle undertook that province, and actually set sail in a cutter for Boulogne, from whence she returned in eight-and-forty hours with a tub-full of those live animals, which being dressed according to art her sister would not taste them, on pretence that her fit of longing was past; but then her inclinations took a different turn, and fixed themselves upon a curious implement belonging to a lady of quality in the neighbourhood, which was reported to be a very great curiosity; this was no other than a porcelain chamber-pot of admirable workmanship, contrived by the honourable owner, who kept it for her own private use, and cherished it as an utensil of inestimable value.

Mrs Grizzle shuddered at the first hint she received of her sister's desire to possess this piece of furniture; because she knew it was not to be purchased; and the lady's character, which was none of the most amiable in point of humanity and condescension, forbade all hopes of borrowing it for a season; she, therefore, attempted to reason down this capricious appetite, as an extravagance of imagination which ought to be combated and repressed; and Mrs Pickle, to all appearance, was convinced and satisfied by her arguments and advice; but, nevertheless, could make use of no other convenience, and was threatned with a very dangerous suppression. Roused at the peril in which she supposed her to be, Mrs Grizzle flew to the lady's house, and having obtained a private audience, disclosed the melancholy situation of her sister, and implored the benevolence of her ladyship, who, contrary to expectation, received her very graciously, and consented to indulge Mrs Pickle's longing.

Mr Pickle began to be out of humour at the expence to which he was exposed by the caprice of his wife, who was herself alarmed at this last accident, and for the future kept her fancy within bounds; in so much, that without being subject to any more extraordinary trouble, Mrs Grizzle reaped the long-wished for fruits of her dearest expectation in the birth of a fine boy, whom her sister in a few months brought into the world.

I shall omit the description of the rejoicings, which were infinite, on this important occasion, and only observe, that Mrs Pickle's mother and aunt stood godmothers, and the commodore assisted at the ceremony as godfather to the child, who was christened by the name of Peregrine, in compliment to the memory of a deceased uncle. While the mother was confined to her bed, and incapable of maintaining her own authority, Mrs Grizzle took charge of the infant by a double claim; and superintended with surprising vigilance the nurse and midwife in all the particulars of their respective offices, which were performed by her express direction. But no sooner was Mrs Pickle in a condition to re-assume the management of her own affairs, than she thought proper to alter certain regulations concerning the child, which had taken place in consequence of her sister's orders, directing, among other innovations, that the bandages with which the infant had been so neatly rolled up, like an Ægyptian mummy, should be loosened and laid aside, in order to rid nature of all restraint, and give the blood free scope to circulate; and, with her own hands, she plunged him headlong every morning in a tub full of cold water. This operation seemed so barbarous to the tender-hearted Mrs Grizzle, that she not only opposed it with all her

her eloquence, ſhedding abundance of tears over the ſacrifice when it was made; but took horſe immediately, and departed for the habitation of an eminent country phyſician, whom ſhe conſulted in theſe words, "Pray, doctor, is it not both dangerous and cruel, to be the means of letting a poor tender infant periſh, by ſouſing it in water as cold as ice?" "Yes, (replied the doctor,) downright murder, I affirm." "I ſee you are a perſon of great learning and ſagacity. (ſaid the other;) and I muſt beg you will be ſo good as to ſignify your opinion in your own hand-writing." The doctor immediately complied with her requeſt, and expreſſed himſelf upon a ſlip of paper to this purpoſe.

Theſe are to certify whom it may concern, that I firmly believe, and it is my unalterable opinion, that whoſoever letteth an infant periſh, by ſouſing it in cold water, even though the ſaid water ſhould not be ſo cold as ice, is in effect guilty of the murder of the ſaid infant, as witneſs my hand.

COMFIT COLOCYNTH.

Having obtained this certificate, for which the phyſician was handſomely acknowledged, ſhe returned exulting and hoping, with ſuch authority, to overthrow all oppoſition. Accordingly, next morning, when her nephew was about to undergo his diurnal baptiſm, ſhe produced the commiſſion, whereby ſhe conceived herſelf impowered to overrule ſuch inhuman proceedings. But ſhe was diſappointed in her expectation, confident as it was; not that Mrs Pickle pretended to differ in opinion from Dr Colocynth, "for whoſe character and ſentiments

timents (ſaid ſhe) I have ſuch veneration, that I ſhall carefully obſerve the caution implied in this very certificate, by which, far from condemning my method of practice, he only aſſerts, that killing is murder; an aſſeveration, the truth of which, it is hoped, I ſhall never diſpute."

Mrs Grizzle, who, ſooth to ſay, had rather too ſuperficially conſidered the clauſe by which ſhe thought herſelf authorized, peruſed the paper with more accuracy, and was confounded at her own want of penetration. Yet, though ſhe was confuted, ſhe was by no means convinced that her objections to the cold bath were unreaſonable; on the contrary, after having beſtowed ſundry opproprious epithets on the phyſician, for his want of knowledge and candour, ſhe proteſted, in the moſt earneſt and ſolemn manner, againſt the pernicious practice of dipping the child; a piece of cruelty which, with God's aſſiſtance, ſhe ſhould never ſuffer to be inflicted on her own iſſue; and waſhing her hands of the melancholy conſequence that would certainly enſue, ſhut herſelf up in her cloſet, to indulge her ſorrow and vexation. She was deceived, however, in her prognoſtic; the boy, inſtead of declining in point of health, ſeemed to acquire freſh vigour from every plunge, as if he had been reſolved to diſcredit the wiſdom and foreſight of his aunt, who, in all probability, could never forgive him, for this want of reverence and reſpect. This conjecture is founded upon her behaviour to him in the ſequel of his infancy, during which ſhe was known to torture him more than once, when ſhe had opportunities of thruſting pins into his fleſh, without any danger of being detected. In a word, her affections were in a little time altogether alienated from this hope of her family, whom ſhe abandoned

bandoned to the conduct of his mother, whose province it undoubtedly was to manage the nurture of her own child; while she herself resumed her operations upon the commodore, whom she was resolved at any rate to captivate and enslave. And it must be owned, that Mrs Grizzle's knowledge of the human heart never shone so conspicuous as in the methods she pursued for the accomplishment of this important aim.

Through the rough unpolished husk that cased the soul of Trunnion, she could easily distinguish a large share of that vanity and self-conceit that generally predominate even in the most savage breast; and to this she constantly appealed. In his presence she always exclaimed against the craft and dishonest dissimulation of the world; and never failed of uttering particular invectives against those arts of chicanery, in which the lawyers are so conversant to the prejudice and ruin of their fellow-creatures; observing, that in a sea-faring life, so far as she had opportunities of judging or being informed, there was nothing but friendship, sincerity and a hearty contempt for every thing that was mean or selfish.

This kind of conversation, with the assistance of certain particular civilities, insensibly made an impression on the mind of the commodore; and that the more effectual, as his former prepossessions were built upon very slender foundations; his antipathy to old maids, which he had conceived upon hearsay, began gradually to diminish, when he found they were not quite such infernal animals as they had been represented; and it was not long before he was heard to observe at the club, that Pickle's sister had not so much of the core of bitch in her as he had imagined. This negative compli-

ment

ment, by the medium of her brother, ſoon reached the ears of Mrs Grizzle, who, thus encouraged, redoubled all her art and attention; ſo that in leſs than three months after, he in the ſame place diſtinguiſhed her with the epithet of a damn'd ſenſible jade.

Hatchway taking the alarm at this declaration, which he feared foreboded ſomething fatal to his intereſt, told his commander with a ſneer, that ſhe had ſenſe enough to bring him to under her ſtern; and he did not doubt but that ſuch an old crazy veſſel would be the better for being taken in tow. "But howſomever, (added this arch adviſer,) I'd have you take care of your upper works; for if once you are made faſt to her poop, agad! ſhe'll ſpank it away, and make every beam in your body crack with ſtraining." Our ſhe-projector's whole plan had like to have been ruined by the effect which this malicious hint had upon Trunnion, whoſe rage and ſuſpicion being weakened at once, his colour changed from tawny to a cadaverous pale, and then ſhifting to a deep and duſky red, ſuch as we ſometimes obſerve in the ſky when it is replete with thunder, he, after his uſual preamble of unmeaning oaths, anſwered in theſe words: "Damn ye, you jurylegg'd dog, you would give all the ſtowage in your hold to be as ſound as I am; and as for being taken in tow, d'ye ſee, I'm not ſo diſabled but I can lie my courſe, and perform my voyage without any aſſiſtance; and, agad! no man ſhall ever ſee Hawſer Trunnion lagging a-ſtern in the wake of e'er a bitch in chriſtendom."

Mrs Grizzle, who every morning interrogated her brother with regard to the ſubject of his night's converſation with his friends, ſoon received the unwelcome news of the commodore's averſion to matrimony

trimony; and justly imputing the greatest part of his disgust to the satirical insinuations of Mr Hatchway, resolved to level this obstruction to her success, and actually found means to interest him in her scheme. Sh had indeed, on some occasions, a particular knack at making converts, being probably not unacquainted with that grand system of persuasion which is adopted by the greatest personages of the age, as fraught with maxims much more effectual than all the eloquence of Tully or Demosthenes, even when supported by the demonstrations of truth: besides, Mr Hatchway's fidelity to his new ally, was confirmed by his foreseeing in his captain's marriage an infinite fund of gratification for his own cynical disposition. Thus, therefore converted and properly cautioned, he for the future suppressed all the virulence of his wit against the matrimonial state; and, as he knew not how to open his mouth in the positive praise of any person whatever, took all the opportunities of excepting Mrs Grizzle by name, from the censures he liberally bestowed upon the rest of her sex. "She is not a drunkard, like Nan Caustick of Deptford, he would say; not a nincompoop, like Peg Simper of Woolwich; not a shrew, like Nell Griffin, on the Point, Portsmouth, (ladies to whom, at different times, they had both paid their addresses) but a tight, good-humoured, sensible wench, who knows very well how to box her compass; well trimmed aloft, and well sheathed alow, with a good cargo under her hatches." The commodore at first imagined this commendation was ironical, but hearing it repeated again and again, was filled with astonishment at this surprising change in the lieutenant's behaviour; and after a long fit of musing concluded,

concluded that Hatchway himself harboured a matrimonial design on the person of Mrs Grizzle.

Pleased with this conjecture, he rallied Jack in his turn, and one night toasted her health as a compliment to his passion; a circumstance which the lady learned next day by the usual canal of her intelligence, and interpreting it as the result of his own tenderness for her, she congratulated herself upon the victory she had obtained; and thinking it unnecessary to continue the reserve she had hitherto industriously affected, resolved from that day to sweeten her behaviour towards him with such a dish of affection, as could not fail to persuade him that he had inspired her with a reciprocal flame. In consequence of this determination, he was invited to dinner, and while he stayed, treated with such cloying proofs of her regard, that not only the rest of the company, but even Trunnion himself, perceived her drift: and taking the alarm accordingly, could not help exclaiming, "Oho! I see how the land lies, and if I don't weather the point, I'll be damn'd.' Having thus expressed himself to his afflicted inamorata, he made the best of his way to the garrison in which he shut himself up for the space of ten days and had no communication with his friends and domesticks but by looks, which were most significantly picturesque.

CHAP. VII.

Divers stratagems are invented and put in practice, in order to overcome the obstinacy of Trunnion, *who at length is teised and tortured into the noose of wedlock.*

THIS abrupt departure and unkind declaration affected Mrs Grizzle so much that she fell sick:

of

of ſorrow and mortification; and after having confined herſelf to her bed for three days, ſent for her brother, told him ſhe perceived her end drawing near, and deſired that a lawyer might be brought, in order to write her laſt will. Mr Pickle, ſurpriſed at her demand, began to act the part of a comforter, aſſuring her that her diſtemper was not at all dangerous, and that he would inſtantly ſend for a phyſician, who would convince her that ſhe was in no manner of jeopardy; ſo that there was no occaſion, at preſent, to employ any officious attorney in ſuch a melancholy taſk. Indeed, this affectionate brother was of opinion, that a will was altogether ſuperfluous at any rate, as he himſelf was heir at law to his ſiſter's whole, real and perſonal eſtate. But ſhe inſiſted upon his compliance with ſuch determined obſtinacy, that he could no longer reſiſt her importunities; and a ſcrivener arriving, ſhe dictated and executed her will, in which ſhe bequeathed to commodore Trunnion one thouſand pounds, to purchaſe a mourning ring, which ſhe hoped he would wear as a pledge of her friendſhip and affection. Her brother, though he did not much reliſh this teſtimony of her love, nevertheleſs that ſame evening gave an account of this particular to Mr Hatchway, who was alſo, as Mr Pickle aſſured him, generouſly remembered by the teſtatrix.

The lieutenant, fraught with this piece of intelligence, watched for an opportunity, and as ſoon as he perceived the commodore's features a little unbended from that ferocious contraction they had retained ſo long, ventured to inform him that Pickle's ſiſter lay at the point of death, and that ſhe had left him a thouſand pounds in her will. This piece

piece of news overwhelmed him with confusion, and Mr Hatchway imputing his silence to remorse, resolved to take advantage of that favourable moment and counselled him to go and visit the poor young woman, who was dying for love of him. But this admonition happened to be somewhat unseasonable; for Trunnion no sooner heard him mention the cause of her disorder, than his morosity recurring, he burst out into a violent fit of cursing, and forthwith betook himself again to his hammock, where he lay uttering in a low growling tone of voice, a repetition of oaths and imprecations, for the space of four-and-twenty hours, without ceasing. This was a delicious meal to the lieutenant, who, eager to enhance the pleasure of the entertainment, and at the same time conduce to the success of the cause he had espoused, invented a stratagem, the execution of which had all the effect he could desire. He prevailed upon Pipes, who was devoted to his service to get upon the top of the chimney belonging to the commodore's chamber, at midnight, and to lower down, by a rope, a bunch of stinking whitings; which being performed, he put a speaking trumpet to his mouth, and hollowed down the vent, in a voice like thunder, "Trunnion! Trunnion! turn out and be spliced, or lie still and be damn'd." This dreadful note, the terror of which was increased by the silence and darkness of the night, as well as the echo of the passage through which it was conveyed no sooner reached the ears of the astonished commodore, than turning his eyes towards the place from whence this solemn address seemed to proceed he beheld a glittering object that vanished in an instant. Just as his superstitious fear had improved the aparation into a supernatural messenger cloathed in shining array, his opinion was confirmed by a sudden

ſudden exploſion which he took for thunder though it was no other than the noiſe of a piſtol fired down the chimney by the boatſwin's mate, according to the inſtructions he had received; and he had time enough to deſcend before he was in any danger of being detected by his commander, who could not for a whole hour recollect himſelf from the amazement and conſternation which had overpowered his faculties.

At length, however, he got up and rung his bell with great agitation. He repeated the ſummons more than once, but no regard being paid to this alarm, his dread returned with double terror, a cold ſweat bedewed his limbs, his knees knocked together, his hair briſtled up, and the remains of his teeth were ſhattered to pieces in the convulſive vibrations of his jaws.

In the midſt of his agony he made one deſperate effort, and burſting open the door of his apartment bolted into Hatchway's chamber, which happened to be on the ſame floor. There he found the lieutenant in a counterfeit ſwoon, who pretended to awake from his trance in an ejaculation of "Lord have mercy upon us!" And being queſtioned by the terrified commodore with regard to what had happened, aſſured him he had heard the ſame voice and clap of thunder by which Trunnion himſelf had been diſcompoſed.

Pipes, whoſe turn it was to watch, concurred in giving evidence to the ſame purpoſe; and the commodore not only owned that he had heard the voice but likewiſe communicated his viſion, with all the aggravation which his diſturbed fancy ſuggeſted.

A conſultation immediately enſued, in which Mr Hatchway

Hatchway very gravely obſerved, that the finger of God was plainly perceivable in thoſe ſignals; and that it would be both ſinful and fooliſh to diſregard his commands, eſpecially as the match propoſed was, in all reſpects, more advantageous than any one of his years and infirmities could reaſonably expect; declaring, that for his own part he would not endanger his ſoul and body by living one day longer under the ſame roof with a man who deſpiſed the holy will of heaven, and Tom Pipes adhered to the ſame pious reſolution.

Trunnion's perſeverance could not reſiſt the number and diverſity of conſiderations that aſſaulted it; he revolved in ſilence all the oppoſite motives that occurred to his reflection; and after having been, to all appearance, bewildered in the labyrinth of his own thoughts, he wiped the ſweat from his forehead and heaving a piteous groan yielded to their remonſtrances in theſe words: "Well, ſince it muſt be ſo I think we muſt e'en grapple. But, damn my eyes 'tis a damn'd hard caſe that a fellow of my years ſhould be compell'd, d'ye ſee, to beat up to windward all the reſt of my life, againſt the current of his own inclinations.

This important article being diſcuſſed, Mr Hatchway ſet out in the morning to viſit the deſpairing ſhepherdeſs, and was handſomely rewarded for the enlivening tidings with which he bleſſed her ears. Sick as ſhe was, ſhe could not help laughing heartily at the contrivance, in conſequence of which her ſwain's aſſent had been obtained, and gave the lieutenant ten guineas for Tom Pipes, in conſideration of the part he acted in the farce.

In the afternoon the commodore ſuffered himſelf to be conveyed to her apartment, like a felon to execution, and was received by her in a languiſhing manner,

manner, and genteel dishabille, accompanied by her sister-in-law; who was, for very obvious reasons, extremely solicitous about her success. Though the lieutenant had tutored him touching his behaviour at this interview, he made a thousand wry faces before he could pronounce the simple salutation of *How d'ye?* to his mistress; and after his counsellor had urged him with twenty or thirty whispers, to each of which he had replied aloud, Damn your eyes, I won't, he got up, and halting towards the couch on which Mrs Grizzle reclined in a state of strange expectation, he seized her hand and pressed it to his lips; but this piece of gallantry he performed in such a reluctant, uncouth, indignant manner, that the nymph had need of all her resolution to endure the compliment without shrinking: and he himself was so disconcerted at what he had done, that he instantly retired to the other end of the room, where he sat silent, and broiled with shame and vexation. Mrs Pickle, like a sensible matron, quitted the place, on pretence of going to the nursery; and Mr Hatchway, taking the hint, recollected that he had left his tobacco pouch in the parlour, whither he immediately descended leaving the two lovers to their mutual endearments. Never had the commodore found himself in such a disagreeable dilemma before. He sat in an agony of suspence, as if he every moment dreaded the dissolution of nature; and the imploring sighs of his future bride added, if possible, to the pangs of his distress. Impatient of his situation, he rolled his eye a-round in quest of some relief, and unable to contain himself, exclaimed "Damnation seize the fellow and his pouch too! I believe he has sheered off and left me here in the stays." Mrs Grizzle,

zle, who could not help taking some notice of this manifestation of chagrin, lamented her unhappy fate in being so disagreeable to him that he could not put up with her company for a few moments without repining; and began in very tender terms to reproach him with his inhumanity and indifference. To this expostulation he replied. "Zounds! what would the woman have? let the parson do his office when he wool; here I am ready to be reeved in the matrimonial block, d'ye see, and damn all nonsensical palaver." So saying, he retreated, leaving his mistress not at all disobliged at his plain-dealing. That same evening the treaty of marriage was brought upon the carpet, and by means of Mr Pickle and the lieutenant, settled to the satisfaction of all parties, without the intervention of lawyers, whom Mr Trunnion expressly excluded from all share in the business; making that condition the indispensible preliminary of the whole agreement. Things being brought to this bearing, Mrs Grizzle's heart dilated with joy; her health, which, by-the-bye, was never dangerously impaired, she recovered as if by enchantment; and a day being fixed for the nuptials, employed the short period of her celibacy in chusing ornaments for the celebration of her entrance into the married state.

CHAP. VIII.

Preparations are made for the commodore's wedding, which is delayed by an accident that hurried him the Lord knows whither,

THE fame of this extraordinary conjunction spread all over the country; and, on the day appointed

appointed for their espousals, the church was surrounded by an inconceivable multitude. The commodore, to give a specimen of his gallantry, by the advice of his friend Hatchway, resolved to appear on horseback on the grand occasion, at the head of all his male attendants; whom he had rigged with the white shirts and black caps formerly belonging to his barge's crew; and he bought a couple of hunters for the accommodation of himself and his lieutenant. With this equipage then he set out from the garrison for the church, after having dispatched a messenger to apprise the bride that he and his company were mounted.

She got immediately into the coach, accompanied by her brother and his wife and drove directly to the place of assignation, where several pews were demolished, and divers persons almost pressed to death by the eagerness of the crowd that broke in to see the ceremony performed. Thus arrived at the altar, and the priest in attendance, they waited a whole half hour for the commodore, at whose slowness they began to be under some apprehension, and accordingly dismissed a servant to quicken his pace. The valet having rode something more than a mile, espied the whole troop disposed in a long field, crossing the road obliquely, and headed by the bridegroom and his friend Hatchway, who finding himself hindered by a hedge from proceeding farther in the same direction, fired a pistol, and stood over to the other side, making an obtuse angle with the line of his former course; and the rest of the squadron followed his example, keeping always in the rear of each other, like a flight of wild geese.

Surprised at this strange method of journeying, the messenger came up, and told the commodore that his lady and her company expected him in the church

church, where they had tarried a considerable time and were beginning to be very uneasy at his delay; and, therefore desired he would proceed with more expedition. To this message Mr Trunnion replied, "Hark ye, brother, don't you see we make all possible speed? go back and tell those who sent you that the wind has shifted since we weighed anchor, and that we are obliged to make very short trips in tacking, by reason of the narrowness of the channel; and that, as we lie within six points of the wind, they must make some allowance for variation and lee-way." "Lord, Sir, said the valet, what occasion have you to go zig zag in that manner? Do but clap spurs to your horses, and ride straight forward, and I'll engage you shall be at the church-porch in less than a quarter of an hour." "What? right in the wind's eye? answered the commander; ahey brother, where did you learn your navigation? Hawser Trunnion is not to be taught at this time of day how to lie his course, or keep his own reckoning. And as for you, brother, you know best the trim of your own frigate." The courtier finding he had to do with people who would not be easily persuaded out of their own opinions, returned to the temple, and made a report of what he had seen and heard, to the no small consolation of the bride, who had begun to discover some signs of disquiet. Composed, however, by this piece of intelligence, she exerted her patience for the space of another half hour, during which period seeing no bridegroom arrive, she was exceedingly alarmed; so that all the spectators could easily perceive her perturbation which manifested itself in frequent palpitations, heart heavings, and alteration of countenance, in spite of the assistance of a smelling-bottle which she incessantly applied to her nostrils.

Various

Various were the conjectures of the company on this occasion: some imagined he had mistaken the place of rendezvous, as he had never been at church since he first settled in that parish; others believed he had met with some accident, in consequence of which his attendants had carried him back to his own house; and a third set, in which the bride herself was thought to be comprehended, could not help suspecting that the commodore had changed his mind. But all these suppositions, ingenious as they were, happened to be wide of the true cause that detained him, which was no other than this: the commodore and his crew had, by dint of turning, almost weathered the parson's house that stood to windward of the church, when the notes of a pack of hounds unluckily reached the ears of the two hunters which Trunnion and the lieutenant bestrode. These fleet animals no sooner heard the enlivening sound, than, eager for the chace, they sprung away all of a sudden, and straining every nerve to partake of the sport, flew across the fields with incredible speed, overleaped hedges and ditches, and every thing in their way, without the least regard to their unfortunate riders.

The lieutenant, whose steed had got the heels of the other, finding it would be great folly and presumption in him to pretend to keep the saddle with his wooden leg, very wisely took the opportunity of throwing himself off in his passage through a field of rich clover, among which he lay at his ease; and seeing his captain advancing at full gallop, hailed him with the salutation of "What cheer? ho!" The commodore, who was in infinite distress, eying him askance, as he passed, replied with a faultering voice, "O damn you! you are safe at an anchor; I wish to God I were as fast moored." Never-

vertheleſs, conſcious of his diſabled heel, he would not venture to try the experiment which had ſucceeded ſo well with Hatchway, but reſolved to ſtick as cloſe as poſſible to his horſe's back, until providence ſhould interpoſe in his behalf. With this view he dropped his whip, and with his right hand laid faſt hold on the pummel, contracting every muſcle in his body to ſecure himſelf in the ſeat, and grinning moſt formidably, in conſequence of this exertion. In this attitude he was hurried on a conſiderable way, when all of a ſudden his view was comforted by a five-bar gate that appeared before him, as he never doubted but there the career of his hunter muſt neceſſarily end. But, alas! he reckoned without his hoſt; far from halting at this obſtruction, the horſe ſprung over it with amazing agility, to the utter confuſion and diſorder of his owner, who loſt his hat and periwig in the leap, and now began to think in good earneſt, that he was actually mounted on the back of the devil. He recommended himſelf to God: his reflection forſook him, his eye-ſight and all his other ſenſes failed, he quitted the reins, and faſtening by inſtinct on the mane, was in this condition conveyed into the midſt of the ſportſmen, who were aſtoniſhed at the ſight of ſuch an apparition. Neither was their ſurpriſe to be wondered at, if we reflect on the figure that preſented itſelf to their view. The commodore's perſon was at all times an object of admiration; much more ſo on this occaſion, when every ſingularity was aggravated by the circumſtance of his dreſs and diſaſter.

He had put on, in honour of his nuptials, his beſt coat of blue broad cloth, cut by a tailor of Ramſgate, and trimmed with five dozen of braſs buttons, large and ſmall: his breeches were of the ſame

me piece, faſtened at the knees with large bunches f tape; his waiſtcoat was of red pluſh lapelled ith green velvet, and garniſhed with vellum holes; is boots bore an intimate reſemblance, both in co- our and ſhape, to a pair of leather buckets; his oulder was graced with a broad buff belt, from hence depended a huge hanger, with a hilt like at of a back ſword; and on each ſide of his pum- el appeared a ruſty piſtol rammed in a caſe covered ith a bear ſkin. The loſs of his tye-periwig and ced hat, which were curioſities of the kind, did ot at all contribute to the improvement of the pic- ure; but; on the contrary, by exhibiting his bald ate, and the natural extenſion of his lanthorn jaws, dded to the peculiarity and extravagance of the hole. Such a ſpectacle could not have failed of verting the whole company from the chace, had is horſe thought proper to purſue a different route, ut the beaſt was too keen a ſporter to chooſe any ther way than that which the ſtag followed; and erefore, without ſtopping to gratify the curioſi- of the ſpectators, he in a few minutes outſtripped very hunter in the field. There being a deep hol- w way betwixt him and the hounds, rather than de round about the length of a furlong to a path at croſſed the lane, he tranſported himſelf one jump, to the unſpeakable aſtoniſhment nd terror of a waggoner, who chanced to be un- erneath, and ſaw this phænomenon fly over his arriage. This was not the only adventure he chieved. The ſtag having taken a deep river that y in his way, every man directed his courſe to a idge in the neighbourhood; but our bridegroom's ourſer deſpiſing all ſuch conveniences, plunged in- the ſtream without heſitation, and ſwam in a inkling to the oppoſite ſhore. This ſudden im-

merſion

merſion into an element of which Trunnion was properly a native, in all probability helped to recruit the exhauſted ſpirits of his rider, who at his landing on the other ſide gave ſome tokens of ſenſation, by hollowing aloud for aſſiſtance, which he could not poſſibly receive, becauſe his horſe ſtill maintained the advantage he had gained, and would not allow himſelf to be overtaken.

In ſhort, after a long chace, that laſted ſeveral hours, and extended to a dozen miles at leaſt, he was the firſt in at the death of the deer, being ſeconded by the lieutenant's gelding, which, actuated by the ſame ſpirit, had without a rider, followed his companion's example.

Our bridegroom finding himſelf at laſt brought up, or, in other words, at the end of his career, took the opportunity of this firſt pauſe, to deſire the huntſmen would lend him a hand in diſmounting; and was, by their condeſcenſion, ſafely placed on the graſs, where he ſat ſtaring at the company as they came in, with ſuch wildneſs of aſtoniſhment in his looks, as if he had been a creature of another ſpecies dropt among them from the clouds.

Before they had fleſhed the hounds, however, he recollected himſelf, and ſeeing one of the ſportſmen take a ſmall flaſk out of his pocket and apply it to his mouth, judged the cordial to be no other than neat Coniac which it really was! and expreſſing a deſire of participation, was immediately accommodated with a moderate doſe, which perfectlycompleated his recovery.

By this time he and his two horſes had engroſſed the attention of the whole crowd; while ſome admired the elegant proportion and uncommon

ſpirit

ſpirit of the two animals. the reſt contemplated the ſurpriſing appearance of their maſter, whombefore they had only ſeen *en paſſant*; and at length one of the gentlemen accoſting him very courteouſly, ſignified his wonder at ſeeing him in ſuch an equipage, and aſked if he had not dropped his companion by the way. "Why, look ye, brother, (replied the commodore,) mayhap you think me an odd ſort of a fellow, ſeeing me in this trim, eſpecially as I have loſt part of my rigging; but this here is the caſe d'ye ſee: I weighed anchor from my own houſe this morning at ten A. M. with fair weather, and a favourable breeze at ſouth ſouth eaſt, being bound to the next church on the voyage of matrimony; but howſomever, we had not run down a quarter of a league, when the wind ſhifting, blowed directly in our teeth; ſo that we were forced to tack all the way, d'ye ſee, and had almoſt beat up within ſight of the port, when theſe ſons of bitches of horſes, which I had bought but two days before, (for my own part, I believe they are devils incarnate,) luffed round in a trice, and then refuſing the helm, drove away like lightning with me and my lieutenant, who ſoon came to anchor in an exceeding good birth. As for my own part, I have been carried over rocks, and flats, and quick ſands; among which I have pitched away a ſpecial good tye-periwig, and an iron bound hat; and at laſt, thank God! am got into ſmooth water and ſafe riding; but if ever I venture my carcaſe upon ſuch a hare'um ſcare'um blood of a bitch again, my name is not Hawſer Trunnion, d—n my eyes!"

One of the company, ſtruck with his name, which he had often heard, immediately laid hold on his declaration at the cloſe of this ſingular account; and obſerving that his horſes were very vicious, aſk-

ed how he intended to return! "As for that matter, (replied Mr Trunnion,) I am resolved to hire a sledge or waggon, or such a thing as a jack-ass; I'll be d—n'd if ever I cross the back of a horse again." "And what do you propose to do with these creatures? (said the other, pointing to the hunters,) they seem to have some mettle; but then they are mere colts, and will take the devil and all of breaking. Methinks this hither one is shoulder slipped. "Damn them (cried the commodore I wish both their necks were broke, thof the two cost me forty good yellow-boys." "Forty guineas! (exclaimed the stranger, who was a squire and a jocky, as well as owner of the pack) Lord! Lord! how a man may be imposed upon! Why, these cattle are clumsy enough to go to plow; mind what a flat counter; do but observe how sharp this here one is in the whithers; then he's fired in the further fetlock." In short, this connoisseur in horse-flesh, having discovered in them all the defects which can possibly be found in that species of animals, offered to give him ten guineas for the two, saying, he would convert them into beasts of burden. The owner, who (after what had happened) was very well disposed to listen to any thing that was said to their prejudice, implicitly believed the truth of the stranger's asseverations, discharged a furious volly of oaths against the rascal who had taken him in, and forthwith struck a bargain with the squire, who paid him instantly for his purchase; in consequence of which he won the plate at the next Canterbury races.

This affair being transacted, to the mutual satisfaction of both parties, as well as to the general entertainment of the company, who laughed in their

sleeves

ſleeves at the dexterity of their friend, Trunnion was ſet upon the ſquire's own horſe, and led by his ſervant in the midſt of this cavalcade, which proceeded to a neighbouring village, where they had beſpoke dinner, and where our bridegroom found means to provide himſelf with another hat and wig. With regard to his marriage, he bore his diſappointment with the temper of a philoſopher; and the exerciſe he had undergone having quickned his appetite, ſat down at table in the midſt of his new acquaintance, making a very hearty meal, and moiſtening every morſel with a draught of the ale: which he found very much to his ſatisfaction.

CHAP. IX.

He is found by the lieutenant: reconducted to his own houſe; married to Mrs Grizzle, who meets with a ſmall misfortune in the night, and aſſerts her prerogative next morning; in conſequence of which her huſband's eye is endangered.

MEAN while lieutenant Hatchway made ſhift to hobble to the church, where he informed the company of what had happened to the commodore: and the bride behaved with great decency on the occaſion; for as ſoon as ſhe underſtood the danger to which her future huſband was expoſed, ſhe fainted in the arms of her ſiſter-in-law, to the ſurpriſe of all the ſpectators, who could not comprehend the cauſe of her diſorder; and when ſhe was recovered by the application of ſmelling-bottles earneſtly begged that Mr Hatchway and Tom

Pipes would take her brother's coach, and go in queſt of their commander.

This taſk they readily undertook, being eſcorted by all the reſt of his adherents on horſeback while the bride and her friends were invited to the parſon's houſe, and the ceremony deferred till another occaſion.

The lieutenant, ſteering his courſe as near the line of direction in which Trunnion went off, as the coach-road would permit, got intelligence of the track from one farm-houſe to another; for ſuch an apparition could not fail of attracting particular notice; and one of the horſemen having picked up his hat and wig in a bye-path, the whole troop entered the village where he was lodged, about four o'clock in the afternoon. When they underſtood he was ſafely houſed at the George, they rode up to the door in a body, and expreſſed their ſatisfaction in three chears; which were returned by the company within, as ſoon as they were inſtructed in the nature of the ſalute by Trunnion, who by this time had entered into all the jollity of his new friends, and was indeed more than half ſeas over. The lieutenant was introduced to all preſent as his ſworn brother, and had ſomething toſſed up for his dinner. Tom Pipes and the crew were regaled in another room; and a freſh pair of horſes being put to the coach, about ſix in the evening the commodore, with all his attendants, departed for the garriſon, after having ſhook hands with every individual in the houſe.

Without any farther accident, he was conveyed in ſafety to his own gate before nine. and committed to the care of Pipes, who carried him inſtantly to his hammock, while the lieutenant was driven away to the place where the bride and her friends remained

remained in great anxiety, which vanished when he assured them that his commodore was safe, being succeeded by abundance of mirth and pleasantry at the account he gave of Trunnion's adventure.

Another day was fixed for the nuptials; and, in order to baulk the curiosity of idle people, which had given great offence, the parson was prevailed upon to perform the ceremony in the garrison, which all that day was adorned with flags and pendants displayed, and at night illuminated by the direction of Hatchway, who also ordered the patereroes to be fired as soon as the marriage knot was tied. Neither were the other parts of the entertainment neglected by this ingenious contriver, who produced undeniable proofs of his elegance and art in the wedding supper, which had been committed to his management and direction. This genial banquet was entirely composed of sea-dishes; a huge pillaw, consisting of a large piece of beef sliced; a couple of fowls, and half a peck of rice, smoaked in the middle of the board: a dish of hard fish swimming in oil appeared at each end, the sides being furnished with a mess of that savoury composition known by the name of lob's course, and a plate of salmagundy. The second course displayed a goose of a monstrous magnitude flanked with two Guinea hens, a pig barbecu'd, an hock of salt pork in the midst of a pease pudding, a leg of mutton roasted with potatoes, and another boiled with yams. The third service was made up of a loin of fresh pork with apple-sauce, a kid smothered with onions, and a terrapin baked in the shell; and, last of all, a prodigious sea-pye was presented, with an infinite volume of pancakes and fritters. That every thing might be answerable to the magnificence of this delicate feast, he had provided

vaſt quantities of ſtrong beer, flip, rumbo, and burnt brandy, with plenty of Barbadoes water for the ladies; and hired all the fiddles within ſix miles, who, with the addition of a drum, bag-pipe, and Welch-harp, regaled the gueſts with a moſt melodious concert.

The company, who were not at all exceptious, ſeemed extremely well pleaſed with every particular of the entertainment: and the evening being ſpent in the moſt ſocial manner, the bride was by her ſiſter conducted to her apartment, where however, a trifling circumſtance had like to have deſtroyed the harmony which had been hitherto maintained.

I have already obſerved, that there was not one ſtanding bed within the walls; therefore, the reader will not wonder that Mrs Trunnion was out of humour, when ſhe found herſelf under the neceſſity of being confined with her ſpouſe in a hammock, which tho' enlarged with a double portion of canvas, and dilated with a yoke for the occaſion it was at beſt but a diſagreeable, not to ſay, dangerous ſituation. She accordingly complained with ſome warmth of this inconvenience, which ſhe imputed to diſreſpect, and at laſt abſolutely refuſed to put up with the expedient: But Mrs Pickle ſoon brought her to reaſon and compliance, by obſerving that one night would ſoon be elapſed, and next day ſhe might regulate her own œeonomy.

Thus perſuaded, ſhe ventured into the vehicle, and was viſited by her huſband in leſs than an hour, the company being departed to their own homes, and the garriſon left to the command of his lieutenant and mate. But it ſeems the hooks that ſupported this ſwinging couch were not calculated for the addition of weight which they were now deſtined to bear; and, therefore, gave way in the middle

of

of the night, to the no ſmall terror of Mrs Trunnion, who perceiving herſelf falling, ſcreamed aloud, and by that exclamation brought Hatchway with a light into the chamber. Tho' ſhe had received no injury by the fall, ſhe was extremely diſcompoſed and incenſed at the accident, which ſhe even openly aſcribed to the obſtinacy and whimſical oddity of the commodore, in ſuch petulent terms as evidently declared that ſhe thought her great aim accompliſhed, and her authority ſecured againſt all the ſhocks of fortune. Indeed her bedfellow ſeemed to be of the ſame opinion, by his tacit reſignation; for he made no reply to her inſinuations, but with a moſt vinegar aſpect crawled out of his neſt, and betook himſelf to reſt in another apartment, while his irritated ſpouſe diſmiſſed the lieutenant, and from the wreck of the hammock made an occaſional bed for herſelf on the floor, fully determined to provide better accommodation for next night's lodging.

Having no inclination to ſleep, her thoughts during the remaining part of the night were engroſſed by a ſcheme of reformation ſhe was reſolved to execute in the family; and no ſooner did the firſt lark bid ſalutation to the morn, than ſtarting from her humble couch, and huddling on her cloathes, ſh. ſallied from her chamber, explored her way thro' paths before unknown, and in the courſe of her reſearches perceived a large bell, to which ſhe made ſuch effectual application as alarmed every ſoul in the family. In a moment ſhe was ſurrounded by Hatchway, Pipes, and all the reſt of the ſervants half dreſſed: but ſeeing none of the feminine gender appear, ſhe began to ſtorm at the ſloth and lazineſs of the maids, who, ſhe obſerved, ought to have been at work an hour at leaſt before

fore ſhe called; and then, for the firſt time, underſtood that no women were permitted to ſleep within the walls.

She did not fail to exclaim againſt this this regulation; and being informed that the cook and chambermaid lodged in a ſmall office-houſe that ſtood without the gate ordered the draw-bridge to be let down, and in perſon beat up their quarters, commanding them forthwith to ſet about ſcouring the rooms, which had not been hitherto kept in a very decent condition. while two men were immediately employed to tranſport the bed, on which he uſed to lie, from her brother's houſe to her new habitation; ſo that, in leſs than two hours, the whole œconomy of the garriſon was turned topſy-turvy, and every thing inyolved in tumult and noiſe. Trunnion being diſturbed and diſtracted with the uproar, turned out in his ſhirt like a maniac, and arming himſelf with a cudgel of crab-tree made an irruption into his wife's apartement, where perceiving a couple of carpenters at work, in joining a bed-ſtead, he, with many dreadful oaths and opprobrious invectives, ordered them to deſiſt, ſwearing, he would ſuffer no bulk-heads nor hurricane-houſes to ſtand where he was maſter: but finding his remonſtrances diſregarded by theſe mechanics, who believed him to be ſome madman belonging to the family, who had broke from his confinement, he aſſaulted them both with great fury and indignation, and was handled ſo roughly in the encounter, that in a very ſhort time he meaſured his length on the floor, in conſequence of a blow that he received from a hammer, by which the ſight of his remaining eye was grievouſly endangered.

Having thus reduced him to a ſtate of ſubjection they reſolved to ſecure him with cords, and were actually

actually busy in adjusting his fetters, when he was exempted from the disgrace by the accidental entrance of his spouse, who rescued him from the hands of his adversaries, and, in the midst of her condolance, imputed his misfortune to the inconsiderate roughness of his own disposition.

He breathed nothing but revenge, and made some efforts to chastise the insolence of the workmen, who, as soon as they understood his quality, asked forgiveness for what they had done with great humility, protesting that they did not know he was master of the house. But, far from being satisfied with this apology, he groped about for the bell, (the inflammation of his eye having utterly deprived him of sight) and the rope being, by the precaution of the delinquents, conveyed out of his reach, began to storm with incredible vociferation, like a lion roaring in the toil, pouring forth innumerable oaths and execrations, and calling by name Hatchway and Pipes, who being within hearing, obeyed the extraordinary summons, and were ordered to put the carpenters in irons, for having audaciously assaulted him in his own house.

His myrmidons seeing he had been evil intreated, were exasperated at the assault he had suffered, which they considered as an affront upon the dignity of the garrison. the more so, as the mutineers seemed to put themselves in a posture of defence, and set their authority at defiance: they therefore, unsheathed their cutlasses, which they commonly wore as badges of their commission; and a desperate engagement, in all probability, would have ensued, had not the lady of the castle interposed, and prevented the effects of their animosity, by assuring the lieutenant that the commodore had been the aggressor; and that the workmen, finding themselves attacked in such an extraordinary manner, by a

perſon whom they did not know, were obliged to act in their own defence, by which he had received that unlucky contuſion.

Mr Hatchway no ſooner learnt the ſentiments of Mrs Trunnion, than ſheathing his indignation, he told the commodore he ſhould always be ready to evecute his lawful commands; but that he could not in conſcience be concerned in oppreſſing poor people who had been guilty of no offence.

This unexpected declaration, together with the behaviour of his wife, who in his hearing deſired the carpenters to reſume their work, filled the breaſt of Trunnion with rage and mortification. He pulled off his woolen night-cap, pummelled his bare pate, beat the floor alternately with his feet, ſwore his people had betrayed him and curſed himſelf to the loweſt pit of hell, for having admitted ſuch a cockatrice into his family. But all theſe exclamations did not avail; they were among the laſt eſſays of his reſiſtance to the will of his wife, whoſe influence among his adherents had already ſwallowed up his own; and who now peremptorily told him, that he muſt leave the management of every thing within doors to her, who underſtood beſt what was for her honour and advantage. She then ordered a poultice to be prepared for his eye, which being applied, he was committed to the care of Pipes, by whom he was led about the houſe like a blind bear growling for prey, while his induſtrious yoke-fellow executed every circumſtance of the plan ſhe had projected; ſo that, when he recovered his viſion, he was an utter ſtranger in his own houſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

The commodore being in some cases restive, his lady has recourse to artifice in the establishment of her throne: she exhibits symptoms of pregnancy, to the unspeakable joy of Trunnion, *who nevertheless is baulked in his expectation.*

THESE innovations were not effected without many loud objections on his part; and divers curious dialogues passed between him and his yoke-fellow, who always came off victorious from the dispute; insomuch that his countenance gradually fell; he began to suppress, and at length entirely devoured his chagrin; the terrors of superior authority were plainly perceivable in his features, and in less than three months he became a thorough-paced husband. Not that his obstinacy was extinguished, though overcome; in some things he was inflexible and mulish as ever, but then he durst not kick so openly, and was reduced to the necessity of being passive in his resentments. Mrs Trunnion, for example, proposed that a coach and six should be purchased, as she could not ride on horseback, and the chaise was a scandalous carriage for a person of her condition; the commodore, conscious of his own inferior capacity in point of reasoning, did not think proper to dispute the proposal, but lent a deaf ear to her repeated remonstrances, though they were enforced with every argument which she thought could sooth, terrify, shame or decoy him into compliance; in vain did she urge the excess of affection she had for him, as meriting some return of tenderness aud condescension; he was even proof against certain menacing hints she gave, touching

touching the resentment of a slighted woman; and he stood out against all the considerations of dignity or disgrace, like a bulwark of brass. Neither was he moved to any indecent or unkind expressions of contradiction, even when she upbraided him with his fordid disposition, and put him in mind of the fortune and honour he had acquired by his marriage; but seemed to retire within himself, like a tortoise when attacked, that shrinks within its shell, and silently endured the scourge of her reproaches, without seeming sensible of the smart.

This, however, was the only point in which she had been baffled since her nuptials; and as she could by no means digest the miscarriage, she tortured her invention for some new plan by which she might augment her influence and authority: what her genius refused, was supplied by accident; for she had not lived four months in the garrison, when she was seized with frequent qualms and reachings, her breasts began to harden, and her stomach to be remarkably prominent: in a word, she congratulated herself on the symptoms of her own fertility, and the commodore was transported with joy at the prospect of an heir of his own begetting.

She knew this was the proper season for vindicating her own sovereignty, and accordingly employed the means which nature had put in her power. There was not a rare piece of furniture and apparel for which she did not long; and one day as she went to church, seeing Lady Stately's equipage arrive, she suddenly fainted away. Her husband, whose vanity had never been so perfectly gratified as with this promised harvest of his own sowing, took the alarm immediately, and in order to prevent relapses of that kind, which might be attended with fatal consequences to his hope, gave her leave to

bespeak

bespeak a coach, horses, and liveries, to her own liking. Thus authorized, she in a very little time exhibited such a specimen of her own taste and magnificence, as afforded speculation to the whole country, and made Trunnion's heart quake within him, because he foresaw no limits to her extravagance, which also manifested itself in the most expensive preparations for her lying in.

Her pride, which had hitherto regarded the representatives of her father's house, seemed now to lose all that hereditary respect, and prompt her to outshine and undervalue the elder branch of her family. She behaved to Mrs Pickle with a sort of civil reserve that implied a conscious superiority, and an emulation in point of grandeur immediately commenced between the two sisters. She every day communicated her importance to the whole parish, under pretence of taking the air in her coach, and endeavoured to extend her acquaintance among people of fashion. Nor was this an undertaking attended with great difficulty, for all persons whatever, capable of maintaining a certain appearance, will always find admission into what is called the best company, and be rated in point of character according to their own valuation, without subjecting their pretensions to the smallest doubt or examination. In all her visits and parties she seized every opportunity of declaring her present condition, observing that she was forbid by her physicians to taste such a pickle, and that such a dish was poison to a woman in her way: nay, where she was on a footing of familiarity, she affected to make wry faces, and complained that the young rogue began to be very unruly, writhing herself into divers contortions, as if she had been grievously incommoded by the mettle of this future Trunnion. The husband

himſelf did not behave with all the moderation that might have been expected; at the club he frequently men tioned this circumſtance of his own vigour as a pretty ſucceſsful feat to be performed by an old fellow of fifty-five, and confirmed the opinion of his ſtrength by redoubled ſqueezes of the landlord's hand, which never failed of extorting a ſatisfactory certificate of his might. When his companions drank to the *Hans en kelder*, or Jack in the low cellar, he could not help diſplaying an extraordinary complacence of countenance, and ſignified his intention of ſending the young dog to ſea, as ſoon as he ſhould be able to carry a catridge, in hopes of ſeeing him an officer before his own death.

This hope helped to conſole him under the extraordinary expence to which he was expoſed by the profuſion of his wife, eſpecially when he conſidered that his compliance with her prodigality would be limited to the expiration of the nine months, of which the beſt part was by this time elapſed; yet, in ſpite of all this philoſophical reſignation, her fancy ſometimes ſoared to ſuch a ridiculous and intolerable pitch of inſolence and abſurdity, that his temper forſook him, and he could not help wiſhing in ſecret, that her pride might be confounded in the diſſipation of her moſt flattering hopes, even though he himſelf ſhould be a principal ſufferer by the diſappointment. Theſe, however, were no other than the ſuggeſtions of temporary diſguſts, that commonly ſubſided as ſuddenly as they aroſe, and never gave the leaſt diſturbance to the perſon who inſpired them, becauſe he took care to conceal them carefully from her knowledge.

Meanwhile ſhe happily advanced in her reckoning, with the promiſe of a favourable iſſue; the term of her computation expired, and in the mid-

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dle of the night ſhe was viſited by certain warnings that ſeemed to beſpeak the approach of the critical moment. The commodore got up with grrat alacrity, and called the midwife, who had been ſev ·a' days in the houſe; the goſſips were immediately ſommoned, and the moſt intereſting expectations prevailed; but the ſymptoms of labour gradually vaniſhed, and, as the matrons ſagely obſerved, this was no more than a falſe alarm.

Two nights after, they received a ſecond intimation, and as ſhe was ſenſibly diminiſhed in the waiſt, every thing was ſuppoſed to be in a fair way: yet this viſitaton was not more concluſive than the former; her pains wore off in ſpite of all her endeavours to encourage them, and the good women betook themſelves to their reſpective homes, in expectation of finding the third attack deciſive, alluding to the well known maxim, that *number three is always fortunate*. For once, however, this apothegm failed; the next call was altogether as ineffectual as the former; and moreover, attended with a phænomenon which to them was equally ſtrange and inexplicable: this was no other than ſuch a reduction in the ſize of Mrs Trunnion as might have been expected after the birth of a full-grown child. Startled at ſuch an unaccountable event, they ſat in cloſe divan; and concluding that the caſe was in all reſpects unnatural and prodigious, deſired that a meſſenger might be immediately diſpatched for ſome male-practitioner in the art of midwifery.

The commodore, without gueſſing the cauſe of their perplexity, ordered Pipes immediately on this piece of duty; and in leſs than two hours they were aſſiſted by the advice of a ſurgeon of the neighbourhood, who boldly affirmed that the patient had never been with child. This aſſeveration was like a

clap of thunder to Trunnion, who had been during eight whole days and nights in continual expectation of being hailed with the appellation of father.

After some recollection, he swore the surgeon was an ignorant fellow, and that he would not take his word for what he advanced; being comforted and confirmed in his want of faith by the insinuations of the midewife, who still persisted to feed Mrs Trunnion with hopes of a speedy and safe delivery; observing that she had been concerned in many a case of the some nature, where a fine child was found, even after all signs of the mother's pregnancy had disappeared. Every twig of hope, how slender soever it may be, is eagerly caught hold on by people who find themselves in danger of being disappointed. To every question proposed by her to the lady with the preamble of "Han't you?" or "Don't you?" an answer was made in the affirmative, whether agreeable to truth or not, because the respondent could not find in her heart to disown any symptom that might favour the notion she had so long indulged.

This experienced proficient in the obstetric art was therefore kept in close attendance for the space of three weeks, during which the patient had several returns of what she pleased herself with believing to be labour pains, till at length she and her husband became the standing joke of the parish; and this infatuated couple could scarce be prevailed upon to part with their hopes, even when she appeared as lank as a greyhound, and they were furnished with other unquestionable proofs of their having been deceived. But they could not for ever remain under the influence of this sweet delusion. which at last faded away, and was succeeded by a paroxism of

shame

ſhame and confuſion, that kept the huſband within doors for the ſpace of a whole fortnight, and confined his lady to her bed for a ſeries of weeks, during which ſhe ſuffered all the anguiſh of the moſt intenſe mortification; yet even this was ſubdued by the lenient hand of time.

The firſt reſpite from her chagrine was employed in the ſtrict diſcharge of what are called the duties of religion, which ſhe performed with the moſt rancorus ſeverity, ſetting on foot a perſecution in her own family, that made the houſe too hot for all the menial ſervants, even ruffled the almoſt invincible indifference of Tom Pipes, haraſſed the commodore himſelf out of all patience, and ſpared no individual but lieutenant Hatchway, whom ſhe never ventured to diſoblige.

CHAP. XI.

Mrs Trunnion erects a tyranny in the garriſon, while her huſband conceives an affection for his nephew Perry, who manifeſts a peculiarity of diſpoſition even in his tender years.

HAVING exerciſed herſelf three months in ſuch pious amuſements, ſhe appeared again in the world; but her misfotune had made ſuch an impreſſion on her mind, that ſhe could not bear the ſight of a child, and trembled whenever the converſation happened to turn upon a chriſtening. Her temper, which was naturally none of the ſweeteſt, ſeemed to have imbibed a double proportion of ſouring from her diſappointment; of conſequence

her company was not much coveted, and ſhe found very few people diſpoſed to treat her with thoſe marks of conſideration which ſhe looked upon as her due. This neglect detached her from the ſociety of an unmannerly world; ſhe concentred the energy of all her talents in the government of her own houſe, which groaned accordingly under her arbitrary ſway, and in the brandy-bottle found ample conſolation for all the affliction ſhe had undergone

As for the commodore, he in a little time weathered his diſgrace, after having ſuſtained many ſevere jokes from the lieutenant; and now his chief aim being to be abſent from his own houſe as much as poſſible, he frequented the public-houſe more than ever, more aſſiduouſly cultivated the friendſhip of his brother-in-law Mr Pickle, and in the courſe of their intimacy conceived an affection for his nephew Perry, which did not end but with his life. Indeed it muſt be owned that Trunnion was not naturally deficient in the ſocial paſſions of the ſoul, which, though they were ſtrangely warped, diſguiſed and overborne by the circumſtances of his boiſterous life and education, did not fail to manifeſt themſelves occaſionally through the whole courſe of his behaviour.

As all hopes of propogating his own name had periſhed, and his relations lay under the interdiction of his hate, it is no wonder that through the familiarity and friendly intercourſe between him and Mr Gamaliel, he contracted a liking for the boy, who by this time entered the third year of his age, and was indeed a very handſome, healthy, and promiſing child; and what ſeemed to ingratiate him ſtill more with his uncle, was a certain oddity of diſpoſition for which he had been remarkable even from

from his cradle. It is reported of him, that before the first year of his infancy was elapsed, he used very often, immediately after being dressed, in the midst of the caresses which were bestowed upon him by his mother, while she indulged herself in the contemplation of her own happiness, all of a sudden to alarm her with a fit of shrieks and cries, which continued with great violence till he was stripped to the skin with the utmost expedition by order of his affrighted parent, who thought his tender body was tormented by the misapplication of some unlucky pin; and when he had given them all this disturbance and unnecessary trouble, he would lie sprawling and laughing in their faces as if he ridiculed the impertinence of their concern.

Nay, it is affirmed, that one day, when an old woman who attended in the nursery had by stealth conveyed a bottle of cordial waters to her mouth, he pulled his nurse by the sleeve, and by a slight glance detected the theft, tipt her the wink with a particular slyness of countenance, as if he had said with a sneer; "Ay, ay, that is what you must all come to." But these instances of reflection in a babe nine months old are so incredible, that I look upon them as *ex post facto* observations, founded upon imaginary recollection, when he was in a more advanced age. and his peculiarities of temper became much more remarkable; of a piece with the ingenious discoveries of those sagacious observers, who can discern something evidently characteristic in the features of any noted personage whose character they have previously heard explained; yet, without pretending to specify at what period of his childhood this singularity first appeared, I can with great truth declare, that when he first attracted the notice and affection of his uncle, it was plainly perceivable.

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One would imagine he had marked out the commodore as a proper object of ridicule. for almost all his childish satire was levelled against him. I will not deny that he might have been influenced in this particular by the example and instruction of Mr Hatchway, who delighted in superintending the first essays of his genius. As the gout had taken up its residence in Mr Trunnion's great toe, from whence it never removed, no not for a day, little Perry took great pleasure in treading by accident on this infirm member; and when his uncle, incensed by the pain, used to damn him for a hell-begotten brat, he would appease him in a twinkling by returning the curse with equal emphasis, and asking what was the matter with old Hannibal Thogh? an appellation by which the lieutenant had taught him to distinguish this grim commander.

Neither was this the only experiment he tried upon the patience of the commodore, with whose nose he used to take indecent freedoms even while he was fondled on his knee; in one month he put him to the expence of two guineas in seal-skin, by picking his pocket of divers tobacco pouches, all of which he in secret committed to the flames. Nor did the caprice of his disposition abstain from the favourite beverage of Trunnion, who more than once swallowed a whole draught in which his brother's snuff-box had been emptied, before he perceived the disagreeable infusion: and one day, when the commodore had chastised him by a gentle tap with his cane, he fell flat on the floor as if he had been deprived of all sense and motion, to the terror and amazement of the striker; and after having filled the whole house with confusion and dismay, opened his eyes and laughed heartily at the success of his own imposition.

It would be an endless and perhaps no very agreeable task, to enumerate all the unlucky pranks he played upon his uncle and others, before he attained the fourth year of his age: about which time he was sent, with an attendant, to a day-school in the neighbourhood, that (to use his good mother's own expression) he might be out of harm's way. Here, however, he made little progress, except in mischief, which he practised with impunity, because the school-mistress would run no risk of disobliging a lady of fortune, by exercising unnecessary severities upon her only child. Nevertheless, Mrs Pickle was not so blindly partial as to be pleased with such unseasonable indulgence. Perry was taken out of the hands of this courteous teacher, and committed to the instruction of a pedagogue, who was ordered to administer such correction as the boy should in his opinion deserve. This authority he did not neglect to use; his pupil was regularly flogged twice a-day, and after having been subjected to this course of discipline for the space of eighteen months, declared the most obstinate dull and untoward genius that ever had fallen under his cultivation; instead of being reformed, he seemed rather hardened and confirmed in his vicious inclinations, and was dead to all sense of fear as well as shame. His mother was extremely mortified at these symptoms of stupidity, which she considered as an inheritance deprived from the spirit of his father, and consequently insurmountable by all the efforts of human care. But the commodore rejoiced over the ruggedness of his nature, and was particularly pleased when upon inquiry he found that Perry had beaten all the boys in the school; a circumstance from which he prognosticated every thing that was fair and fortunate in his future fate; observing, that,

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at his age, he himſelf was juſt ſuch another. The boy, who was now turned of ſix, having profited ſo little under the birch of his unſparing governor, Mrs Pickle was counſelled to ſend him to a boarding-ſchool not far from London, which was kept by a certain perſon very eminent for his ſucceſsful method of education. This advice ſhe the more readily embraced, becauſe at that time ſhe found herſelf pretty far gone with another child, that ſhe hoped would conſole her for the diſappointment ſhe had met with in the unpromiſing talents of Perry, or at any rate divide her concern, ſo as to enable her to endure the abſence of either.

CHAP. XII.

Peregrine *is ſent to a boarding-ſchool, becomes remarkable for his genius and ambition.*

THE commodore underſtanding her determination, to which her huſband did not venture to make the leaſt objection, intereſted himſelf ſo much in behalf of his favourite, as to ſit him out at his own charge, and accompany him in perſon to the place of his deſtination; where he defrayed the expence of his entrance, and left him to the particular care and inſpection of the uſher, who having been recommended to him as a perſon of parts and integrity, received *per* advance a handſome conſideration for the taſk he undertook.

Nothing could be better judged than this piece of liberality; the aſſiſtant was actually a man of learning, probity, and good ſenſe; and though obliged by

by the ſcandalous adminiſtration of fortune to act in the character of an inferior teacher, had, by his ſole capacity and application, brought the ſchool to that degree of reputation which it never could have obtained from the talents of his ſuperior. He had eſtabliſhed an æconomy, which, though regular, was not at all ſevere, by enacting a body of laws ſuited to the age and comprehenſion of every individual; and each tranſgreſſor was fairly tried by his peers, and puniſhed according to the verdict of the jury. No boy was ſcourged for want of apprehenſion, but a ſpirit of emulation was raiſed by well-timed praiſe and artful compariſon, and maintained by a diſtribution of ſmall prizes, which were adjudged to those who ſignalized themſelves either by their induſtry, ſobriety, or genius. This tutor, whoſe name was Jennings, began with Perry, according to his conſtant maxim, by examining the ſoil the bias of his diſpoſition, which was ſtrangely perverted by the abſurd diſcipline he had undergone. He found him in a ſtate of ſullen inſenſibility, which the child had gradually contracted in a long courſe of ſtupifying correction; and at firſt he was not in the leaſt actuated by that commendation which animated the reſt of his ſchool-fellows; nor was it in the power of reproach to excite his ambition, which had been buried, as it were, in the grave of diſgrace; the uſher, therefore had recourſe to contemptuous neglect, with which he affected to treat this ſtubborn ſpirit; foreſeeing, that if he retained any ſeeds of ſentiment, his weather would infallibly raiſe them into vegetation: this judgment was juſtified by the event; the boy in a little time began to make obſervations; he perceived the marks of diſtinction with which virtue was rewarded, grew aſhamed of the deſpicable figure he himſelf made among his companions, who,

far

far from courting, rather ſhunned his converſation; and actually pined at his own want of importance.

Mr Jennings ſaw and rejoiced at his mortification, which he ſuffered to proceed as far as poſſible, without endangering his health. The child loſt all reliſh for diverſion, loathed his food, grew penſive, ſolitary, and was frequently found weeping by himſelf. Theſe ſymptoms plainly evinced the recovery of his feelings, to which his governor thought it now high time to make application: and, therefore, by little and little altered his behaviour from the indifference he had put on, to the appearance of more regard and attention. This produced a favourable change in the boy, whoſe eyes ſparkled with ſatisfaction one day, when his maſter expreſſed himſelf with a ſhew of ſurpriſe in theſe words, "So, Perry! "I find you don't want genius, when you think "proper to uſe it." Such encomiums kindled the ſpirit of emulation in his little breaſt: he exerted himſelf with ſurpriſing alacrity, by which he ſoon acquitted himſelf of the imputation of dullneſs, and obtained ſundry honorary ſilver pennies, as acknowledgments of his application: his ſchool-fellows now ſolicited his friendſhip as eagerly as they had avoided it before; and in leſs than a twelvemonth after his arrival, this ſuppoſed dunce was remarkable for the brightneſs of his parts; having in that ſhort period learnt to read Engliſh perfectly well, made great progreſs in writing, enabled himſelf to ſpeak the French language without heſitation, and acquired ſome knowledge in the Rudiments of the Latin tongue. The uſher did not fail to tranſmit an account of his proficiency to the commodore, who received it with tranſport, and forthwith communicated the happy tidings to the parents.

Mr Gamaliel Pickle, who was never ſubject to

violent

violent emotions, heard them with a ſort of phlegmatic ſatisfaction that ſcarce manifeſted itſelf either in his countenance or expreſſions; nor did the child's mother break forth into that rapture and admiration which might have been expected, when ſhe underſtood how much the talents of her firſt born had exceeded the hope of her warmeſt imagination. Not but that ſhe profeſſed herſelf well pleaſed with Perry's reputation; though ſhe obſerved, that, in theſe commendations, the truth was always exaggerated by ſchool-maſters, for their own intereſt; and pretended to wonder that the uſher had not mingled more probability with his praiſe. Trunnion was offended at her indifference and want of faith, and believing that ſhe refined too much in her diſcernment, ſwore that Jennings had declared the truth, and nothing but the truth; for he himſelf had prophecied from the beginning that the boy would turn out a credit to his family. But by this time Mrs Pickle was bleſſed with a daughter, whom ſhe had brought into the world about ſix months before the intelligence arrived; ſo that her care and affection being otherwiſe engroſſed, the praiſe of Perry was the leſs greedily devoured. The abatement of her fondneſs was an advantage to his education, which would have been retarded, and perhaps ruined by pernicious indulgence and prepoſterous interpoſition, had her love conſidered him as an only child; whereas her concern being now diverted to another object that ſhared, at leaſt, one half of her affection, he was left to the management of his preceptor, who tutored him according to his own plan, without any let or interruption. Indeed, all his ſagacity and circumſpection were but barely ſufficient to keep the young gentleman in order; for now that he had won the palm of victory from his rivals in point of ſcho-

larſhip, his ambition dilated, and he was ſeized with a deſire of ſubjecting the whole ſchool by the valour of arm. Before he could bring his project to bear, innumerable battles were fought with various ſucceſs; every day a bloody noſe and complaint were preſented againſt him, and his own viſage commonly bore ſome livid marks of obſtinate contention. At length, however, he accompliſhed his aim; his adverſaries were ſubdued, his proweſs acknowledged, and he obtained the laurel in war as well as in wit. Thus triumphant, he was intoxicated with ſucceſs. His pride roſe in proportion to his power, and in ſpite of all the endeavours of Jennings, who practiſed every method he could invent for curbing his licentious conduct, without depreſſing his ſpirit, he contracted a large proportion of inſolence, which a ſeries of misfortune that happened to him in the ſequel could ſcarce effectually tame. Nevertheleſs, there was a fund of good nature and generoſity in his compoſition; and though he eſtabliſhed a tyranny among his comrades, the tranquillity of his reign was maintained by the love rather than by the fear of his ſubjects.

In the midſt of all this enjoyment of empire, he never once violated that reſpectful awe with which the uſher had found means to inſpire him; but he by no means preſerved the ſame regard for the principal maſter, an old illiterate German quack, who had formerly practiſed corn-cutting among the quality, and ſold coſmetic waſhes to the ladies, together with teeth powders, hair-dying liquors, prolific elixirs, and tinctures to ſweeten the breath. Theſe noſtrums, recommended by the art of cringing, in which he was conſummate, ingratiated him ſo much with people of faſhion, that he was enabled to ſet up ſchool with five and twenty boys of the beſt fa-

milies,

milies, whom he boarded on his own terms, and undertook to instruct in the French and Latin languages, so as to qualify them for the colleges of Westminster and Eaton. While this plan was in its infancy, he was so fortunate as to meet with Jennings, who for the paultry consideration of thirty pounds a year, which his necessities compelled him to accept, took the whole trouble of educating the children upon himself, contrived an excellent system for that purpose, and by his assiduity and knowledge, executed all the particulars to the entire satisfaction of those concerned, who, by-the-bye, never inquired into his qualifications, but suffered the other to enjoy the fruits of his labour and ingenuity.

Over and above a large stock of avarice, ignorance, and vanity, this superior had certain ridiculous peculiarities in his person, such as a hunch upon his back, and distorted limbs, that seemed to attract the satyrical notice of Peregrine, who, young as he was, took offence at his want of reverence for his usher, over whom he sometimes chose opportunities of displaying his authority, that the boys might not displace their veneration. Mr Keypstick, therefore, such as I have described him, incurred the contempt and displeasure of this enterprising pupil, who now being in the tenth year of his age, had capacity enough to give him abundance of vexation. He underwent many mortifying jokes from the invention of Pickle and his confederates; so that he began to entertain suspicion of Mr Jennings, who he could not help thinking had been at the bottom of them all, and spirited up principles of rebellion in the school, with a view of making himself independent. Possessed with this chimera, which was void of all foundation, the German descended so low as to tamper in private with the boys, from whom he hoped

to

to draw ſome very important diſcovery, but he was diſappointed in his expectation: and this mean practice reaching the ears of his uſher, he voluntarily reſigned his employment. Finding intereſt to obtain holy orders, in a little time after he left the kingdom hoping to find a ſettlement in ſome of our American plantations.

The departure of Mr Jennings produced a great revolution in the affairs of Keypſtick, which declined from that moment, becauſe he had neither authority to enforce obedience, nor prudence to maintain order among his ſcholars; ſo that the ſchool degenerated into anarchy and confuſion, and he himſelf dwindled in the opinion of his employers, who looked upon him as ſuperannuated, and withdrew their children from his tuition.

Peregrine ſeeing this diſſolution of their ſociety, and finding himſelf every day deprived of ſome companion, began to repine at his ſituation, and reſolved, if poſſible to procure his releaſe from the juridiction of the perſon whom he both deteſted and deſpiſed. With this view he went to work and compoſed the following billet, addreſſed to the commodore, which was the firſt ſpecimen of his compoſition in the epiſtolary way:

Honoured and loving uncle,

HOPING you are in good health, this ſerves to inform you, that Mr Jennings is gone, and Mr Keypſtick will never meet with his fellow. The ſchool is already almoſt broke up, and the reſt daily going away; and I beg of you of all love to have me fetched away alſo, for I cannot bear to be any longer under one who is a perfect ignoramus, who ſcarce knows

knows the declination of *musa*, and is more fit to be a scar-scrow than a school-master; hoping you will send for me soon, with my love to my aunt and my duty to my honoured parents, craving their blessing and yours. And this is all at present from, honoured uncle, your well-beloved and dutiful nephew and godson, and humble servant to command 'till death,

PEREGRINE PICKLE

Trunnion was overjoyed at the receipt of this letter, which he looked upon as one of the greatest efforts of human genius, and as such communicated the contents to his lady, whom he had disturbed for the purpose in the middle of her devotion, by sending a message to her closet, whither it was her custom very frequently to retire. She was out of humour at being interrupted, and, therefore, did not pursue this specimen of her nephew's understanding with all the relish that the commodore himself had enjoyed: on the contrary, after sundry paralytical endeavours to speak, (for her tongue sometimes refused its office) she observed that the boy was a pert jackanapes, and deserved to be severely chastised for treating his betters with such direspect. Her husband undertook his godson's defence, representing with great warmth that he knew Keypstick to be a good for nothing pimping old rascal, and that Perry shewed a great deal of spirit and good sense in desiring to be taken from under his command; he, therefore, declared that the boy should not live a week longer with such a shambling son of a bitch, and sanctioned his declaration with abundance of oaths.

Mrs Trunnion, composing her countenance into

a look of religious demureness, rebuked him for his profane way of talking; and asked in a magisterial tone, if he intended never to lay aside that brutal behaviour? Irritated at this reproach, he answered in terms of indignation, that he knew how to behave himself as well as e'er a woman that wore a head, bade her mind her own affairs, and with another repetition of oaths, gave her to understand that he would be master in his own house.

This insinuation operated upon her spirits like friction upon a glass globe; her face gleamed with resentment, and every pore seemed to emit particles of flame. She replied with incredible fluency of the bitterest expressions. He retorted equal rage in broken hints and incoherent imprecations. She rejoined with redoubled fury, and in conclusion he was fain to betake himself to flight, ejaculating curses against her; and muttering something concerning the brandy-bottle, which, however, he took care should never reach her ears.

From his own house he went directly to visit Mrs Pickle, to whom he imparted Peregrine's epistle with many encomiums upon the boy's promising parts: and finding his commendations but coldly received, desired she would permit him to take his godson under his own care.

This lady, whose family was now increased by another son who seemed to ingross her care for the present, had not seen Perry during a course of four years, and with regard to him, was perfectly weaned of that infirmity known by the name of maternal fondness; she, therefore consented to the commodore's request with great condescension, and a polite compliment to him on the concern he had all along manifested for the welfare of the child.

CHAP. XIII.

The commodore takes Peregrine *under his own care. The boy arrives at the garrison;—is strangely received by his own mother;—enters into a confederacy with* Hatchway *and* Pipes, *and executes a couple of waggish enterprises upon his aunt.*

TRUNNION, having obtained this permission that very afternoon dispatched the lieutenant in a post-chaise to Keypstick's house, from whence in two days he returned with our young hero; who being now in the eleventh year of his age, had outgrown the expectation of all his family, and was remarkable for the beauty and elegance of his person His god-father was transported at his arrival, as if he had been actually the issue of his own loins. He shook him heartily by the hand, turned him round and round, surveyed him from top to bottom, bade Hatchway take notice how handsomely he was built squeezed his hand again, saying, "Damn ye, you dog, I suppose you don't value such an old crazy son of a bitch as me, a rope's end.

You have forgot how I wont to dandle you on my knee, when you was a little urchin no bigger than the Davit, and played a thousand tricks upon me, burning my bacco-pouches and poisoning my rumbo O! damn ye, you can grin fast enough I see; I warrant you have learnt more things than writing and the Latin lingo." Even Tom Pipes expressed unkommon satisfaction on this joyful occasion; and coming

comingup toPerry, thruſt forth his fore paw, and accoſted him with the ſalutation of " What chear, my young maſter? I am glad to ſee thee with all my heart." Theſe compliments being paſſed, his uncle halted to the door of his wife's chamber, at which he ſtood hollowing, " Here's your kinſman Perry, belike you won't come and bid him welcome." " Lord! Mr Trunnion, ſaid ſhe, why will you continually haraſs me in this manner with your impertinent intruſion!" " I harrow you, replied the commodore; 'ſblood! I believe your upper works are damaged, I only came to inform you that here was your couſin, whom you have not ſeen theſe four long years; and I'll be damn'd if there is ſuch another of his age within the king's dominions, d'ye ſee, either for make or mettle: he's a credit to the name, d'ye ſee, but damn my eyes I'll ſay no more of the matter; if you come you may, if you won t you may let it alone." Well, I wont come then (anſwered his yoke-fellow) for I am at preſent more agreeably employed." " Oho! you are? I believe ſo too;" cried the commodore, making wry faces, and mimicking the action of dramdrinking.

Then addreſſing himſelf to Hatchway, "Prithee Jack, (ſaid he) go and try thy ſkill on the ſtubborn hulk; if any body can bring her about I know you wool." The lieutenant accordingly taking his ſtation at the door, conveyed his perſuaſion in theſe words, " What, won't you turn out and hail little Perry? It will do your heart good to ſee ſuch a handſome young dog; I'm ſure he is the very moral of you, and as like as if he had been ſpit out of your own mouth, as the ſaying is; do ſhew a little reſpect for your kinſman, can't you?" ſhe replied in a mild tone of voice, " Dear Mr Hatchway, you are always teazing one in ſuch a manner; of want of

natural

natural affection; so saying, she opened the door, and advancing to the hall where her nephew stood, received him very graciously, and observed that he was the very image of her papa.

In the afternoon he was conducted by the commodore to the house of his parents; and, strange to tell, no sooner was he presented to his mother than her countenance changed, she eyed him with tokens of affliction and surprize, and bursting into tears, exclaimed her child was dead; and this was no other than an impostor whom they had brought to defraud her sorrow. Trunnion was confounded at this unaccountable passion, which had no other foundation than caprice and whim; and Gamaliel himself was so disconcerted and unsettled in his own belief, which began to waver, that he knew not how to behave towards the boy, whom his godfather immediately carried back to the garrison, swearing all the way that Perry should never cross their threshold again with his good will. Nay, so much was he incensed at this unnatural and absurd renunciation, that he refused to carry on any further correspondence with Pickle, until he was appeased by his solicitations and submission, and Peregrine owned as his son and heir. But this acknowledgement was made without the privity of his wife, whose vicious aversion he was obliged, in appearance, to adopt. Thus exiled from his father's house, the young gentleman was left entirely to the disposal of the commodore, whose affection for him daily increased, insomuch that he could scarce prevail upon himself to part with him, when his education absolutely required that he should be otherwise disposed of.

In all probability, this extraordinary attachment was, if not produced; at least riveted by that peculiar turn in Peregrine's imagination, which we have already

already obſerved; and which, during his reſidence in the caſtle, appeared in ſundry ſtratagems he practiſed upon his uncle and aunt, under the auſpices of Mr Hatchway, who aſſiſted him in the contrivance and execution of all his ſchemes. Nor was Pipes exempted from a ſhare in their undertakings; for, being a truſty fellow, not without dexterity in ſome caſes, and altogether reſigned to their will, they found him a ſerviceable inſtrument for their purpoſe, and uſed him accordingly.

The firſt ſample of their art was exhibited upon Mrs Trunnion. They terrified that good lady with ſtrange noiſes when ſhe retired to her devotion. Pipes was a natural genius in the compoſition of diſcords; he could imitate the ſounds produced by the winding of a jack, the filing of a ſaw, and the ſwinging of a malefactor hanging in chains; he could counterfeit the braying of an aſs, and the ſcreeching of a night-owl, the caterwauling of cats, the howling of a dog, the ſqueaking of a pig, the crowing of a cock; and he had learned the war-hoop uttered by the Indians in North America. Theſe talents were exerted ſucceſſively at different times and places, to the terror of Mrs Trunnion, the diſcompoſure of the commodore himſelf, and the conſternation of all the ſervants in the caſtle. Peregrine, with a ſheet over his cloathes, ſometimes tumbled before his aunt in the twilight, when her organs of viſion were a little impaired by the cordial ſhe had ſwallowed; and the boatſwain's mate taught him to ſhoe cats with walnut ſhells, ſo that they made a moſt dreadful clattering in their nocturnal excurſions. The mind of Mrs Trunnion was not a little diſturbed by theſe alarms, which, in her opinion, portended the death of ſome principal perſon in the family; ſhe redoubled her religious exerciſes,

xercises, and fortified her spirits with fresh potations; nay, she began to take notice that Mr Trunnion's constitution was very much broke, and seemed dissatisfied when people observed that they never saw him look better. Her frequent visits to the closet, where all her consolation was deposited, inspired the confederates with advice which had like to have been attended with tragical consequences. They found an opportunity to infuse jallap in one of her case bottles, and she took so largely of this medicine, that her constitution had well nigh sunk under the violence of its effect. She suffered a succession of fainting fits that reduced her to the brink of the grave, in spite of all the remedies that were administred by a physician who was called in the beginning of her disorder. After having examined the symptoms, he declared that the patient had been poisoned with arsenic, and prescribed oily draughts and lubricating injections to defend the coats of the stomach and intestines from the vellicating particles of that pernicious mineral; at the same time, hinting with a look of infinite sagacity, that it was not difficult to divine the whole mystery. He affected to deplore the poor lady, as if she was exposed to more attempts of the same nature; thereby glancing obliquely at the innocent commodore, whom the officious son of Æsculapius suspected as the author of this expedient, to rid his hands of a yoke-fellow for whom he was well known to have no great devotion. This impertinent and malicious insinuation made some impression upon the by-standers, and furnished ample field for slander, to asperse the morals of Trunnion, who was represented through the whole district as a monster of barbarity. Nay, the sufferer herself, though she behaved with great decency and prudence, could not help entertaining

some

ſome ſmall diffidence of her huſband, not that imagined he had any deſign upon her life, but t he had been at pains to adulterate the brandy w a view of detaching her from that favourite liqu

On this ſuppoſition, ſhe reſolved to act with mo caution for the future, without ſetting on foot a inquiry about the affair; while the commodore i puting her indiſpoſition to ſome natural cauſe, af the danger was paſt, never beſtowed a thought up the ſubject; ſo that the perpetrators were quit their fear, which, however, had puniſhed them effectually, that they never would hazard any mo jokes of the ſame nature.

The ſhafts of their wit were now directed agai the commander himſelf, whom they teized and te rified almoſt out of his ſenſes. One day while was at dinner, Pipes came and told him that the was a perſon below that wanted to ſpeak with hi immediately about an affair of the greateſt impo tance, that would admit of no delay; upon whic he ordered the ſtranger to be told that he was en gaged, and that he muſt ſend up his name and bu ineſs. To this demand he received for anſwer meſſage, importing that the perſon's name was un known to him, and his buſineſs of ſuch a nature that it could not be diſcloſed to any one but the com modore himſelf, whom he earneſtly deſired to ſe without loſs of time.

Trunnion, ſurpriſed at this importunity, got u with great reluctance in the middle of his meal, an deſcending to a parlour where the ſtranger was, aſk ed in a furly tone, what he wanted with him in ſuc a damn'd hurry, that he could not wait till he ha made an end of his meſs. The other, not at a diſconcerted at this rough addreſs, advanced clo up to him on his tiptoes, and with a look of conf

dene

dence and conceit, laying his mouth to one side of the commodore's head, whispered softly to his ear, "Sir, I am the attorney whom you wanted to converse with in private." "The attorney! (cried Trunnion, staring and half choaked with choler.) Yes, Sir, at your service, replied this retainer to the law; and if you please, the sooner we dispatch the affair the better; for 'tis an old observation, that delay breeds danger," "Truly, brother (said the commodore, who could no longer contain himself,) I do confess that I am very much of your way of thinking, d'ye see; and therefore, you shall be dispatched in a trice; so saying, he lifted up his walking staff, which was something between a crutch and a cudgel, and discharged it with such energy on the seat of the attorney's understanding, that if there had been any thing but solid bone, the contents of his skull must have been evacuated.

Fortified as he was by nature against all such assaults, he could not withstand the momentum of the blow, which in an instant laid him flat on the floor, deprived of all sense and motion; and Trunnion hopped up stairs to dinner, applauding himself in ejaculations all the way for the vengeance he had taken on such an impudent pettifogging miscreant.

The attorney no sooner awaked from his trance, into which he had been so unexpectedly lulled, than he cast his eyes around in quest of evidence, by which he might be enabled the more easily to prove the injury he had sustained; but not a soul appearing, he made shift to get upon his legs again, and with the blood trickling over his nose, followed one of the servants into the dining-room, resolved to come to an explanation with the assailant, and either extort money from him by way of satisfaction, or to provoke him to a second application before witnesses.

With this view he entered the room in a peal of clamour, to the amazement of all present, and the terror of Mrs Trunnion, who shrieked at the appearance of such a spectacle; and addressing himself to the commodore, "I'll tell you what, Sir, said he, if there be law in England, I'll make you smart for this assault; you fancy you have screened yourself from a prosecution, by sending all your servants out of the way, but that circumstance will appear upon trial to be a plain proof of the malice prepense with which the fact was committed: especially when corroborated by the evidence of this here letter under your own hand, whereby I am desired to come to your own house to transact an affair of consequence; so saying, he produced the writing, and read the contents in these words:

Mr Roger Ravine,

Sir,

BEING in a manner prisoner in my own house, I desire you will give me a call precisely at three o'clock in the afternoon, and insist upon seeing myself, as I have an affair of great consequence, in which your particular advice is wanted by your humble servant,

Hawser Trunnion

The one-eyed commander, who had been satisfied with the chastisement he had already bestowed upon the plaintiff, hearing him read this audacious piece of forgery, which he considered as the effect of his own villany, started up from table, and seizing a huge turkey that lay in a dish before him, would

would have applied it ſauce and all by way of poultice to his wound, had he not been reſtrained by Hatchway, who laid faſt hold on both his arms, fixed him to his chair again, adviſing the attorney to ſheer off with what he had got. Far from following this ſalutary counſel, he redoubled his threats, and ſet Trunnion at defiance, telling him he was not a man of true courage, although he had commanded a ſhip of war, or elſe he would not have attacked any perſon in ſuch a cowardly and clandeſtine manner. This provocation would have anſwered his purpoſe effectually, had not his adverſary's indignation been repreſſed by the ſuggeſtion of the lieutenant, who deſired his friend in a whiſper to be eaſy, for he would take care to have the attorney toſſed in a blanket for his preſumption. This propoſal, which he received with great approbation, pacified him in a moment; he wiped the ſweat from his forehead, and his features relaxed into a grim ſmile.

Hatchway diſappeared, and Ravine proceeded with great fluency of abuſe. until he was interrupted by the arrival of Pipes, who, without any expoſtulation, led him out by the hand, and conducted him to the yard, where he was put into a carpet, and in a twinkling ſent into the air, by the ſtrength and dexterity of five ſtout operators, whom the lieutenant had ſelected from the number of domeſtics for that ſingular ſpell of duty.

In vain did the aſtoniſhed vaulter beg for the love of God and paſſion of Chriſt, that they would take pity upon him, and put an end to his involuntary gambols; they were deaf to his prayers and proteſtations, even when he ſwore in the moſt ſolemn manner, that if they would ceaſe tormenting him, he would forget and forgive what was paſſed, and

depart

depart in peace to his own habitation; and continued the game till they were fatigued with the exercise.

Ravine being dismissed in a most melancholy plight, brought an action of assault and battery against the commodore, and subpoena'd all the servants as evidences in the cause; but as none of them had seen what happened, he did not find his account in the prosecution, though he himself examined all the witnesses, and among other questions, asked whether they had not seen him come in like another man? in such a condition as that in which he had crawled off? But this last interrogation they were not obliged to answer, because it had reference to the second discipline he had undergone, in which they, and they only were concerned: and no person is bound to give testimony against himself.

In short the attorney was nonsuited, to the satisfaction of all who knew him, and found himself under the necessity of proving that he had received in course of post the letter which was declared in court a scandalous forgery, in order to prevent an indictment with which he was threatened by the commodore, who little dreamt that the whole affair had been planned and executed by Peregrine and his associates.

The next enterprize in which this triumvirate engaged, was a scheme to frighten Trunnion with an apparition, which they prepared and exhibited in this manner. To the hide of a large ox, Pipes fitted a leathern vizor of a most terrible appearance, stretched on the jaws of a shark which he had brought from sea, and accommodated with a couple of broad glasses instead of eyes. On the inside of these he placed two rush lights, and with a composition of sulphur and saltpetre, made a pretty large fuse,

fuse, which he fixed between two rows of the teeth.

This equipage being finished, he, one dark night, chosen for the purpose, put it on, and following the commodore into a long passage in which he was preceded by Perry with a light in his hand, kindled his fire-work with a match, and began to bellow like a bull. The boy, as it was concerted, looking behind him, screamed aloud, and dropped the light, which was extinguished in the fall: when Trunnion, alarmed at his nephew's consternation, exclaimed, "Zounds! what's the matter?" And turning about to see the cause of his dismay, beheld a hideous phantom vomiting blue flame, which aggravated the horrors of its aspect. He was instantly seized with an agony of fear, which divested him of his reason; nevertheless, he, as it were mechanically, raised his trusty supporter in his own defence, and the apparition advancing towards him, aimed it at this dreadful annoyance with such a convulsive exertion of strength, that had not the blow chanced to light upon one of the horns, Mr Pipes would have had no cause to value himself upon his invention. Misapplied as it was, he did not fail to stagger at the shock, and dreading another such salutation, closed with the commodore and having tripped up his heels, retreated with great expedition.

It was then that Peregrine, pretending to recollect himself a little, ran with all the marks of disturbance and affright, and called up the servants to the assistance of their master, whom they found in a cold sweat upon the floor, his features betokening horror and confusion. Hatchway raised him up, and having comforted him with a cup of Nantz, began to inquire into the cause of his disorder: but he could not exact one word of answer from his friend, who, after a considerable pause, during which

which he seemed to be wrapped up in profound contemplation, pronounced aloud, "By the Lord! Jack, you may say what you wool; but I'll be damn'd if it was not Davy Jones himself: I know him by his saucer eyes, his three rows of teeth, his horns and tail, and the blue smoak that came out of his nostrils What does the black-guard hell's baby want with me? I'm sure I never commited murder, except in the way of my profession, nor wronged any man whatsomever since I first went to sea." This same Davy Jones, according to the mythology of sailors, is the fiend that presides over all the evil spirits of the deep, and is often seen in various shapes, perching among the rigging on the eve of hurricanes, shipwrecks, and other disasters, to which a seafaring life is exposed; *warning the devoted wretch of death and woe.* No wonder then that Trunnion was disturbed by a supposed visit of this dæmon, which, in his opinion, foreboded some dreadful calamity.

CHAP. XIV.

He is also by their device engaged in an adventure with the exciseman, who does not find his account in his own drollery.

HOwsoever preposterous and unaccountable that passion may be, which prompts persons otherwise generous, and sympathising, to afflict and perplex their fellow-creatures, certain it is, our confederates entertained such a large proportion of it, that not satisfied with the pranks they had already played, they still persecuted the commodore without ceasing. In the course of his own history, the particulars of which he delighted to recount, he had often rehearsed an adventure of deer-stealing; in which

which (during the unthinking impetuosity of his youth) he had been unfortunately concerned. Far from succeeding in that atchievement, he and his associates had (it seems) been made prisoners, after an obstinate engagement with the keepers, and carried before a neighbouring justice of peace, who used Trunnion with great dignity, and with his companions committed him to jail.

His own relations, and in particular an uncle on whom he chiefly depended, treated him during his confinement with great rigour and inhumanity, and absolutely refused to interpose his influence in his behalf, unless he would sign a writing, obliging himself to go to sea within thirty days after his release, under the penalty of being proceeded against as a felon. The alternative was either to undergo this voluntary exile, or remain in prison disowned and deserted by every body, and, after all, suffer an ignominious trial that might end in a sentence of transportation for life. He, therefore, without much hesitation, embraced the proposal of his kinsman, and (as he observed) was in less than a month after his discharge turned adrift to the mercy of the wind and waves.

Since that period, he had never maintained any correspondence with his relations, all of whom had concurred in sending him off; nor would he ever pay the least regard to the humiliations and supplications of some among them, who had prostrated themselves before him, on the advancement of his fortune: but he retained a most inveterate resentment against his uncle, who was still in being, tho' extremely old and infirm, and frequently mentioned his name with all the bitterness of revenge.

Perry being perfectly well acquainted with the particulars of this story, which he had heard so of-

ten repeated, proposed to Hatchway, that a person should be hired to introduce himself to the commodore, with a suppositious letter of recommendation from this detested kinsman; an imposition that, in all likelihood would afford abundance of diversion.

The lieutenant relished the scheme: and young Pickle having composed an epistle for the occasion, the exciseman of the parish, a fellow of great impudence and some humour in whom Hatchway could confide, undertook to transcribe and deliver it with his own hand, and also personate the man in whose favour it was feigned to be writ. He, accordingly, one morning arrived on horseback at the garrison, two hours at least before Trunnion used to get up, and gave Pipes, who admitted him, to understand, that he had a letter for his master, which he was ordered to deliver to none but the commodore himself. This message was no sooner communicated, than the indignant chief (who had been waked for the purpose) began to curse the messenger for breaking his rest, and swore he would not budge till his usual time of turning out. This resolution being conveyed to the stranger, he desired the carrier to go back and tell him, he had such joyful tidings to impart, that he was sure the commodore would think himself amply rewarded for his trouble, even if he had been raised from the grave to receive them.

This assurance, flattering as it was, would not have been powerful enough to persuade him, had it not been assisted with the exhortations of his spouse which never failed to influence his conduct. He, therefore, crept out of bed, though not without great repugnance, and wrapping himself in his morning-gown, was supported down stairs, rubbing his eye, yawning fearfully, and grumbling all the way. As soon as he popt his head into the parlour, the supposed

ſuppoſed ſtranger made divers aukward bows, and with a grinning aſpect accoſted him in theſe words; "Your moſt humble ſervant, moſt noble commodore! I hope you are in good health; you look pure and hearty; and if it was not for that misfortune of your eye, one would not deſire to ſee a more pleaſant countenance in a ſummer's day. Sure as I am a living ſoul, one would take you to be on this ſide of threeſcore. Laud help us! I ſhould have known you to be a Trunnion if I had met with you in the midſt of Salisbury plain as the ſaying is." The commodore who was not at all in the humour of reliſhing ſuch in impertinent preamble, interrupted him in his place, ſaying, with a peeviſh accent, "Pſhaw pſhaw! brother, there's no occaſion to bawſs out ſo much unneceſſary gum; if you can't bring your diſcourſe to bear on the right ſubject, you had much better clapt a ſtopper on your tongue, and bring yourſelf up, d'ye ſee: I was told you had ſomething to deliver." "Deliver! (cried the waggiſh impoſture odd's heart! I have got ſomething for you that will make your very intrails rejoice within your body. Here's a letter from a dear and worthy friend of yours. Take, read it, and be happy. Bleſſings on his old heart! one would think he had renewed his age like the eagles." Trunnion's expectation being thus raiſed, he called for his ſpectacles, adjuſted them to his eye, took the letter, and being curious to know the ſubſcription, no ſooner perceived his uncle's name, than he ſtarted back, his lip quivered and he began to ſhake in every limb with reſentment and ſurpriſe: nevertheleſs, ager to know the ſubject of an epiſtle from a perſon who had never before troubled him with any ſort of addreſs, he endeavoured to recollect himſelf, and peruſed the contents, which were theſe;

"Loving Nephew,

I Doubt not but you will be rejoiced to hear of my welfare; and well you may, conſidering wh

a kind uncle I have been to you in the days of your youth, and how little you deſerved any ſuch thing, for you was always a graceleſs young man, given to wicked courſes and bad company, whereby you would have come to a ſhameful end, had it not been for my care in ſending you out of miſchief's way. But this is not the cauſe of my preſent writing. The bearer, Mr Timothy Trickle, is a diſtant relation of yours, being the ſon of the couſin of your aunt Margery, and is not over and above well as to worldly matters. He thinks of going to London, to ſee for ſome poſt in the exciſe or cuſtoms, if ſo be that you will recommend him to ſome great man of your acquaintance, and give him a ſmall matter to keep him till he is provided. I doubt not, nephew, but you will be glad to ſerve him, if it was no more but for the reſpect you bear to me, who am,

Loving Nephew,
Your affectionate Uncle,
and Servant to command,
TOBIAH TRUNNION."

It would be a difficult taſk for the inimitable Hogarth himſelf to exhibit the ludicrous expreſſion of the commodore's countenance, while he read this letter. It was not a ſtare of aſtoniſhment, a convulſion of rage, or a ghaſtly grin of revenge, but an aſſociation, of all three, that took poſſeſſion of his features. At length he hawked up with incredible ſtraining, the interjection Ah! that ſeemed to have ſtuck ſome time in his windpipe, and thus gave vent to his indignation; "Have I come along-ſide of you at laſt, you old ſtinking curmudgeon! you lie, you louſy hulk, ye lie! you did all in your power to founder me when I was a ſtrippling; and as for being graceleſs, and wicked, and keeping bad company, you tell a damn'd lie again, you thief; there was not a more peaceable lad in the country; and

and I kept no bad company but your own, d'ye ſee. Therefore, you Trickle, or what's your name, tell the old raſcal that ſent you hither, that I ſpit in his face, and call him *Horſe*; that I tear his letter into rags, ſo; and that I trample upon it as I would upon his own villanous carcaſe, d'ye ſee." So ſaying he danced in a ſort of frenzy upon the fragments of the paper, which he had ſcattered about the room, to the inexpreſſible ſatisfaction of the triumvirate, who beheld the ſcene.

The exciſeman having got between him and the door which was left open for his eſcape, in caſe of neceſſity, affected great confuſion and ſurpriſe at his behaviour, ſaying, with an air of mortification, "Lord be merciful unto me! is this the way you treat your own relations, and the recommendation of your beſt friend? ſurely all gratitude and virtue has left this ſinful world! what will couſin Tim, and Dick, and Tom, and good mother Pipkin, and her daughters, couſin Sue, and Prue, and Peg, with all the reſt of our kinsfolk ſay, when they hear of this unconſcionable reception that I have met with? Conſider, Sir, that ingratitude is worſe than the ſin of witchcraft, as the apoſtle wiſely obſerves: and do not ſend me away with ſuch unchriſtian uſage, which will lay a heavy load of guilt upon your poor miſerable ſoul." "What, you are on the cruize for a poſt, brother Trickle, an't ye! (ſaid Trunnion, interrupting him) we ſhall find a poſt for you in a trice, my boy. Here Pipes take this ſaucy ſon of a bitch, be-lay him to the whipping-poſt in the yard. I'll teach you to rowce me in the morning with ſuch impertinent meſſages." Pipes, who wanted to carry the joke farther than the exciſeman dreamt of, laid hold of him in a twinkling, and executed the orders of his commander, notwithſtanding all his nods, winking and ſignificant

geſtures

gestures, which the boatswain's mate would by no means understand; so that he began to repent of the part he acted in this performance, which was like to end so tragically, and stood fastened to the stake, in a very disagreeable state of suspense, casting many a rueful look over his left shoulder (for his Pipes was absent in quest of a cat and nine tails) in expectation of being relieved by the interposition of the lieutenant, who did not, however, appear. Tom returning with the instrument of correction, undressed the delinquent in a trice, and whispering in his ear, that he was very sorry for being employed into such an office, but durst not for his soul disobey the orders of his commander, flourished the scourge about his head, and with admirable dexterity made such a smarting application to the offender's back and shoulders, that the distracted gauger performed sundry new cuts with his feet, and bellowed hideously with pain, to the infinite satisfaction of the spectators. At length, when he was almost flead from his rump to the nape of his neck, Hatchway, who had purposely absented himself hitherto, appeared in the yard, and interposed in his behalf, prevailed upon Trunnion to call off the executioner, and ordered the malefactor to be released.

The exciseman, mad with the catastrophe he had undergone, threatened to be revenged upon his employers, by making a candid confession of the whole plot; but the lieutenant giving him to understand, that in so doing he would bring upon himself a prosecution for fraud, forgery, and imposture, he was fain to put up with his loss, and sneaked out of the garrison, attended with a volly of curses discharged upon him by the commodore, who was exceedingly irritated by the disturbances and disappointment he had undergone.

FINIS.